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ESTABLISHED 1813.

THE INDIAN RAILWAY TRAVELLERS' GUIDE.

THE BEST AND MOST COMPLETE GUIDE IN INDIA.
Time and Fare Tables of all Indian Railways, Steam Boats and Daks. Places of Interest Inland and along the Coast. Postal and Telegraphic information, &c., &c.

COLOURED MAP OF INDIA.
"Bombay Gazette" Press, Fort, Bombay.

PETER F. HEERING'S
COPENHAGEN
CHERRY BRANDY.
Sold by all respectable Wine Merchants.

SHIPPING.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL COMPANY.

DEPARTURES FOR EUROPE.

Vessels.	Tons.	Captains.	SATURDAY, 2 P.M. 1898.
† CARTHAGE	5267	J. R. Landon	1st Jan.
R.I. ORIENTAL	6234	W. H. Monle	8th "
† BALLAARAT	4800	W. J. Nantes	15th "
B.M. EGYPT	5080	R. F. Brisco	22nd "
† SHANNON	4189	F. Cole	29th "
R.M. CALEDONIA	7568	W. B. Andrews	5th Feb.
† BALLAARAT	4800	W. J. Nantes	12th "
* CARTHAGE	5267	J. R. Landon	19th "
B.M. PENINSULAR	6987	W. A. Wheler	26th "
* SHANNON	4189	F. Cole	5th Mar.
B.M. EGYPT	5080	R. F. Brisco	12th "
* CARTHAGE	5267	J. R. Landon	19th "
R.M. CALEDONIA	7568	W. B. Andrews	26th "
* SHANNON	4189	F. Cole	2nd April.
R.M.L. ORIENTAL	5284	W. H. Monle	9th "
* CARTHAGE	5267	J. R. Landon	16th "
R.M.L. PENINSULAR	6987	W. A. Wheler	23rd "
* SHANNON	4189	F. Cole	30th "
R.M.L. EGYPT	5080	R. F. Brisco	7th May.
* CARTHAGE	5267	J. R. Landon	14th "
R.M.L. CALEDONIA	7568	W. B. Andrews	21st "
* SHANNON	4189	F. Cole	28th "

The Steamers marked B. L. proceeds to BRINDISI, PLYMOUTH and LONDON direct.
The Steamers marked R. M. proceed to BRINDISI and MARSEILLES only, Passengers for London proceeding on by rail.
The Steamers marked B. M. L. proceed to BRINDISI, MARSEILLES, PLYMOUTH and LONDON direct. The Steamers marked † proceed to Aden only and Passengers tranship there to a Steamer for Brindisi, Marseilles, Plymouth and London.
Steamers marked * proceed to ADEN only and cannot take Passengers for Europe.
Heavy baggage must be sent to the Ballard Pier before 9 A.M. on the day of sailing.
A Steam Tender leaves the Ballard Pier at NOON on the day of sailing, to convey Passengers on board, and only hand packages will be received. The attention of Passengers is called to the importance of having their Baggage labelled with Port of Destination.

TO STRAITS, CHINA AND JAPAN.
The Company's STEAMERS LEAVE BOMBAY FORT NIGHTLY, usually on WEDNESDAYS, taking Passengers for the STRAITS, CHINA, and JAPAN, and Return Tickets are issued on favourable terms.
Cargo Steamers are despatched to China at frequent intervals, calling at Ports en route.
For further particulars apply to
I. M. SHIELDS,
Superintendent, P. & O. S. N. Company.
Bombay, 11th December, 1897.

AUSTRIAN LLOYD'S S.N.Co.

UNDER MAIL CONTRACT WITH THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT.

ACCELERATED SERVICE TO TRIESTE, *VIA* ADEN, SUEZ, AND PORT SAID.

Steamer.	Captain.	Tons.	To Sail on
IMPERATOR	J. Nicolich	4,140	1st Jan. 1898.
IMPERATRIX	T. Rassovich	4,213	1st Feb., 1898.

RATES OF PASSAGE MONEY.

	1st Class.	2nd Class.	Deck
TRIESTE, or VENICE	Rs. 500	Rs. 325	Rs. 150

Steamers for BOMBAY leave TRIESTE on the 3rd, and BRINDISI, on the 4th of each month.

ORDINARY SERVICE TO TRIESTE, *VIA* KURRACHEE, ADEN, SUEZ, AND PORT SAID.

Steamers.	Captain.	Tons.	To Sail on or about
TRIESTE	A. Mitis	5,096	15th Jan., '98.
POSEIDON	R. Mayer	3,878	12th Feb., '98.

RATES OF PASSAGE MONEY BY THIS ROUTE.

	2nd Class.	Deck.
TRIESTE or VENICE	Rs. 370	Rs. 160

STEAMERS for BOMBAY LEAVE TRIESTE on the 20th of each month.
RETURN TICKETS
By either Accelerated or Ordinary Service to TRIESTE.

	1st Class.	2nd Class.
AVAILABLE for 6 MONTHS	Rs. 900	Rs. 575
AVAILABLE for 12 MONTHS	Rs. 1000	Rs. 636

THROUGH TICKETS TO LONDON.
1st and 2nd Class Single and Return are issued via Trieste, the St. Gothard's, and other Routes.
In connection with the Steamers' Tickets the Company issue now Railway Tickets to the Principal Towns of Austria and Germany, as well as Tickets by steamers of the "Norddeutscher Lloyd" (North German Lloyd) to ports of North and South America, Australia, &c. called at by their vessels

INTERCHANGEABLE TICKETS WITH THE "MESSAGERIES MARITIMES CO."
THE Company are now in a position to issue RETURN TICKETS available for one way by the Austrian Lloyd's and the Return by the Messageries Maritimes Co. at reduced fares. This arrangement will prove of special advantage to passengers on 3 months privilege leave.

STEAM TO COLOMBO, PENANG, SINGAPORE, HONGKONG, SHANGHAI, KOBE,

Steamer	Captain.	Tons.	To Sail on or about
MARIA VALERIE	R. Mitis	4,285	21st Jan., 1898.

Connecting at COLOMBO with the S.S. AGLAIA to MADRAS and CALCUTTA on the Outward and Homeward voyage.
For further particulars, Freight, Passage &c., apply to
E. SCARPA,
Agent.
Sassoon House, 50, Church Gate Street, Bombay, Dec. 27, 1897.

HOMEWARD PASSAGES.

THOS. COOK AND SON,
BANKERS AND PASSENGER AGENTS.

PASSAGES PROMPTLY ENGAGED by P. & O. MAIL and all other Steamers, including Non-Liners, FREE of CHARGE for COMMISSION.
SPECIAL ATTENTION given to the Selection of Berths and Grouping of Passengers.
CONTINENTAL TRAVELLING TICKETS issued available by any route, and allowing breaks of Journey at all places of interest *en route*.
PASSENGERS with COOK'S TICKETS met and assisted at Bombay, London, Gravesend, Liverpool, Brindisi, Naples, Genoa, Marseilles, Venice, Paris, and all Chief Continental Ports and Cities.
RAILWAY OFFICIALS, MISSIONARIES, FAMILY PARTIES, &c., booked at reduced rates.
SAILING LISTS and all information on application.
BOMBAY: 13, Esplanade Road.
CALCUTTA: Old Court House Street.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA LINE.

BOMBAY—ZANZIBAR.

THE following Steamer will SAIL:—

Vessel.	Captain.	Tons.	To Sail
SAFARI	Kiene	1,432	30th Dec.

Taking Cargo and Passengers for LAMU, MOMBASSA, TANGA, etc., etc.
This Line also issue first, second, third-class and deck through tickets to—

EAST LONDON, ALGOA BAY, CAPE TOWN, MADEIRA and SOUTHAMPTON

in connection with the Union Line Mail Steamers from Delagoa Bay, once a month.
For rates and particulars, apply to
F. HEYER, Agent,
Albert Building, Hornby Road.
Bombay, 16th December, 1897.

GRINDLAY, GROOM & CO.,

BOMBAY.

GRINDLAY & CO., CALCUTTA,

BANKERS AND AGENTS.

PASSENGER DEPARTMENT.

HOMEWARD PASSAGES booked without charge and on the most favourable terms. Berths carefully selected, with special attention to grouping.
SLEEPING CAR AND CONTINENTAL RAILWAY TICKETS procured.
RAILWAY OFFICIALS, MISSIONARIES, &c., booked on terms of existing concessions.
PASSENGERS met on arrival.
CIRCULAR NOTES, BANK NOTES, DRAFTS, and SOVEREIGNS, at current rates.
HAND-BOOKS supplied gratis, and general information promptly given.
LONDON AGENTS.—MESSRS. GRINDLAY & Co.

SHIPPING.

THE BRITISH INDIA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, (LIMITED).

Intend to despatch Steamers as follows:—

FOR KURRACHEE DIRECT.

S. S. "KOLA," 1,192 tons, on the 1st Jan., 1898, at 2 p.m., or on arrival of English mail, if later arriving.

FOR KATHIAWAR COAST PORTS AND KURRACHEE.

S. S. "DWARKA," 1,695 tons, on the 29th Dec., at 10 a.m., calling at Veraval, Mangrole Porebander, Cutch Mandvie and Kurrachee in the foregoing or any order. (Weather permitting.)

FOR KURRACHEE AND PERSIAN GULF.

S. S. "SIMLA," 1,615 tons, on the 30th Dec., as soon, calling at Kurrachee, Gwadur, Muscat, Abbas, Lingo, Bushire, Fao, Mahomerah, Busreh in the foregoing or any order. (Weather permitting.)

FOR COAST AND CALCUTTA.

S. S. "KERBELA," 1,961 tons, about 30th Dec.

FOR ADEN, LAMOO, MOMBASSA, AND ZANZIBAR.

S. S. "GOA," 1,903 tons, on or about 30th Dec.

FOR COAST AND RANGOON.

S. S. "CHINDWARA," 2,011 tons, on or about 29th Dec.

FOR SEYCHELLES, MOMBASSA, ZANZIBAR AND DELAGOA BAY.

S. S. "NOWSHERA," 3,024 tons, on or about 15th Jan., 1898 calling at Seychelles, Mombassa, Zanzibar, Mozambique, Beira and Delagoa Bay in the foregoing or any order.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOLD FIELDS.

PASSENGERS and Cargo booked through from Calcutta, Madras, Colombo, Bombay, or Rangoon via Singapore for all adjacent ports to the various Gold Fields. Fortnightly departures from Singapore.
For further particulars apply to
MACKINNON, MACKENZIE & Co.,
Agents.
Bombay, 27th December, 1897.

KING, KING & CO.,

BANKERS AND EAST INDIA AGENTS, BOMBAY.

PASSAGES engaged by P. & O. and all Steamers at the lowest rates obtainable free of charge or Commission.
Lists of the LATEST SAILINGS, with Fares and full information as to berths available, furnished at once.
Special attention paid to the grouping of those wishing to travel 2nd Class, P. & O. Every assistance rendered to Passengers arriving in Bombay for embarkation. Baggage taken over at the Railway Stations and shipped.
THROUGH RAILWAY TICKETS from any Station in India to Bombay, and Tickets for all Continental Routes furnished on application.
SPECIAL AGENTS of the Firm meet all Steamers at BRINDISI and MARSEILLES.
PACKAGES of every description received for despatch as CARGO to Messrs. Henry S. King & Co., London; or Messrs. King, Baillie & Co., Liverpool. Freight and Marine Insurance effected at the Lowest Rates. QUOTATIONS FURNISHED on APPLICATION.
KING, HAMILTON & CO.,
CALCUTTA.
HENRY S. KING & Co., LONDON.

THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA (JAPAN MAIL STEAMSHIP CO.)

S. S. "HIROSHIMA MARU," Captain N. OHNO, 3,275 Tons, will sail for TUTICORIN, SINGAPORE, CHINA, and JAPAN on 30th inst.

For freight and passage apply to
T. TAKAYANAGI,
Manager.
Victoria Buildings, Fort, Bombay, 21st December, 1897.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES

FRENCH MAIL STEAMERS.
FOURWEEKLY DEPARTURE
TO MARSEILLES DIRECT
VIA ADEN, SUEZ, AND PORT SAID.

Vessels.	Tons.	Captains.	Toms on Friday.
SALAZIE	4,856	Paul	21st Jan., 1898.
LAOS	6,020	Flandin	18th Feb., 1898.
SYDNEY	4,232	Aubert	15th March 1898

TO COLOMBO, SINGAPORE, JAVA, SAIGON, TONQUIN, CHINA JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA.

Vessel.	Tons.	Captain.	To sail on or about the
CALEDONIEN	4,232	Durrande	13th Jan. 1898.

INTERCHANGEABLE TICKETS WITH THE AUSTRIAN LLOYD'S S. N. Co.
The Company are now in a position to issue RETURN TICKETS available for one way by the Messageries Maritimes, and the return voyage by the Austrian Lloyd's at Reduced Fares. This arrangement will prove, in some cases, of special advantage to Passengers on three months' privilege leave.
For further Particulars apply to
C. RUINAT, Agent.
Old Oriental Bank Buildings, 67, Esplanade Road, Bombay.

THOS. COOK AND SON,

BANKERS AND ARMY AGENTS.

PASSAGES PROMPTLY ENGAGED by P. & O. MAIL, and all other Steamers, including non-Liners FREE of CHARGE for COMMISSION.
SPECIAL ATTENTION given to the selection of berths and Social Grouping of Passengers.
THROUGH TICKETS issued available from any Railway Station in India to all parts of the Globe.
CONTINENTAL TRAVELLING TICKETS issued, allowing breaks of Journey at all places of interest.
PASSENGERS with COOK'S Tickets met and assisted at all Chief Continental Ports and Cities.
REDUCED RATES to Railway employes, Family Parties and Missionaries.
OUTWARD PASSAGES engaged and Tickets supplied from any part of the world to India.
HOTEL COUPONS available at over 2,000 Hotels.
REDUCED FARES for Military Officers, Government Officials, and Missionaries to Europe via China and America.
HEAVY BAGGAGE received, forwarded and insured.
LIFE and ACCIDENT INSURANCE policies issued.
CIRCULAR NOTES and LETTERS of CREDIT issued for the use of Travellers in all parts of the World.
DRAFTS issued at the Exchange of the day.
SOVEREIGNS, BANK NOTES, and Foreign money bought and supplied. CURRENT ACCOUNTS kept, and Interest allowed when the Credit Balance does not fall below Rs. 1,000
DEPOSITS received. Rate of interest on application.
INTEREST, PAY and PENSIONS collected and every description of Banking and Money Agency transacted.
Handbook of information free on application.
BOMBAY: 13, Esplanade Road.
CALCUTTA, Old Court House Street.

EDUCATION IN GERMANY.

HOME in the family of Dr. Gloël for one or two boys, attending the Royal College (Gymnasium) in Wesel. Residence in healthy situation surrounded by Private Park. Terms £ 75 per year. Application to
Dr. GLOEL,
Landhaus Birkenfeld,
Wesel-am-Rhein,
Germany.

TRADE MARK

NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.

TREACHER & CO., LIMITED,

are making a SPECIAL SHOW of GOODS suitable for

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS

to which they invite SPECIAL ATTENTION

SELECTED PARCELS SENT ON APPROBATION.

ELECTRO-PLATED GOODS.
SILVER-PLATED ON BEST NICKEL SILVER OF THE FINEST QUALITY.
ELECTRO-PLATED SPOONS AND FORKS.
DESSERT AND FISH KNIVES IN HANDSOME CASES.
ENTREE AND BREAKFAST DISHES.
TRAYS AND SALVERS.
BREAKFAST AND DINNER CRUETS,
In great variety.
AFTERNOON TEA SETS.
TEA AND COFFEE SERVICES.
SALAD BOWLS.
TEA & COFFEE SPOONS & FRUIT & JAM SPOONS IN CASES.
TANTALUS LIQUEUR FRAMES.
BEST ENGLISH LEATHER GOODS.
CABINET PHOTO FRAMES AND SCREENS
IN ENDLESS VARIETY.
PRESENTATION AND PHOTOGRAPHIC ALBUMS.
WRITING DESKS AND CASES.
CIGARETTE & CIGAR BOXES & CASES.
LADIES' WORK BASKETS AND COMPANIONS.
OSTRICH FEATHER FANS.
EBONY, IVORY, AND SILVER TOILET BRUSHES.
ART METAL WORK.
VASES, CLOCKS, TRAYS AND WAITERS, LETTER RACKS.
DRAWING-ROOM FLOOR KETTLES.
LADIES' AND GENTS' FITTED DRESSING BAGS AND CASES.
BEST LONDON MADE GOLD JEWELLERY.
HALL MARKED SILVER GOODS.
CIGARETTE AND CIGAR CASES.
SCENT AND TOILET BOTTLES.
TEA AND COFFEE SPOONS IN CASES.
SILVER MOUNTED DOVETON WARE.
SILVER PHOTO FRAMES,
ETC., ETC., ETC.

COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED LISTS ON APPLICATION.

TREACHER & COMPANY, LD.,
BOMBAY. BYCULLA. POONA.

BAHADUR CIGARS.
McDOWELL & Co., MADRAS AND LONDON.

BLANDY BROS., MADEIRA & LONDON.
MADEIRAS. PORTS. SHERRIES.
SOLE AGENTS FOR WESTERN INDIA:—
LATHAM & CO., Bunder Road, KARACHI. Esplanade Road, BOMBAY.

UNDER ROYAL PATRONAGE.
THE NEW PREMIER CYCLE CO.'S HELICAL TUBE MACHINES

The HELICAL TUBE is TWICE THE STRENGTH (weight for weight) of any other Tube used in the construction of Cycle Frames.

THE FOLLOWING 1897 MODELS KEPT IN STOCK.

			Rs.		Rs
Model "Z"	Gents' Roadster, 33lbs.	Cash.	450	Credit.	500
" "P"	" Roadster, 32lbs.	"	410	"	456
" "S"	" Roadster, 35lbs.	"	330	"	372
" "O"	" Road Racer, 26lbs.	"	400	"	445
" "R"	" Road Racer, 29lbs.	"	330	"	372
" "G"	Lady's Roadster, 31lbs.	"	410	"	456
" "H"	" Roadster, 34lbs.	"	330	"	372
" "N"	Girls' Roadster, 30lbs.	"	290	"	330
" "5"	Gents' Tricycle, 45lbs	"	525	"	585

PRICES AND WEIGHTS GIVEN ARE FOR MACHINES FITTED WITH DUNLOP-WELCH PNEUMATIC TYRES, EXCEPT MODEL "N," WHICH HAS CUSHION TYRES.

BY THE SOLE AGENTS IN INDIA:
MARCKS & CO., LD.,
BOMBAY AND POONA.

DOLLS! DOLLS! DOLLS!
A MOST MAGNIFICENT SELECTION OF
DOLLS
HAS JUST COME TO HAND.
PRICES MODERATELY MARKED.
FROM RE. 1 TO RS. 20.
A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF OTHER TOYS.
BOLTON AND COMPANY,
DEALERS IN TOYS,
BOMBAY.

BY ROYAL WARRANT.
RAJA DEEN DAYAL & SONS,
PHOTOGRAPHERS
TO HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE QUEEN-EMPRESS OF INDIA.
HIGH CLASS PORTRAITURE.
ENLARGEMENTS, &C.
ART PHOTOGRAPHIC SALON.
BOMBAY,
WHITEAWAY LAIDLAW BUILDING,
WITH HYDRAULIC LIFT.

BUT WHY SUFFER WITH COUGH AND COLD!
Use at once St. Martin's Pulmonary Balsam which is the only vegetable remedy free of injurious combinations, that relieves Coughs, Cold, Asthma, and Diseases of the Lungs and Chest. Annas 8, and Re. 1.
F. S. MADON & Co.
Near Zooma Musjid, Bombay.

BECHSTEIN PIANOS
BOUDOIR GRANDS, UPRIGHT GRANDS, OBLIQUE COTTAGES
CARL RONISCH PIANOS.
HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL GRANDS.
SCHIEDMAYER PIANOS
Mignon Grands, Square Grands, Vertical Grands,
TENSE STEEL FRAME PIANOS FOR INDIA.
SOUNDY & CO., LD.,
BOMBAY.

DEWAR'S PERTH WHISKY.
SOLE AGENTS:
LATHAM AND CO.,
ESPLANADE ROAD, BOMBAY. BUNDER ROAD, KARACHI.
RETAIL AGENT.—D. D. BARIA, Crawford Market.
FULL PARTICULARS ON APPLICATION.

ED. BLANCHY & CO., BORDEAUX.
CELEBRATED WINES & BRANDIES.

CLARETS	WHITE WINES	BRANDIES.
MEDOC	GRAVES	COGNAC
ST. JULIEN	BARSAC	"
ST. ESTEPHE	SAUTERNE	"
MARGAUX		1884 Vintage.

Specially recommended.
The Brandies of this Firm are recognised on the Continent and in England as equal to and of the well-known Brands; while the Wines are of exceptionally good value.
SOLE AGENTS FOR INDIA:—
LATHAM & CO., Bunder Road, KARACHI. Esplanade Road, BOMBAY.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

NEXT GRAND MATINEE,
NEW YEAR'S DAY, SATURDAY, 1st JAN.
TIVOLI THEATRE, BOMBAY.
TO-NIGHT
AND
EVERY EVENING
MONS. GEO. LAMBERT D'ARC'S
NEW MARIONETTES.
TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!
IMMENSE ENTHUSIASM!
SATURDAY'S PERFORMANCES CROWDED!
DON'T FORGET THE FINEST SHOW
IN THE WORLD.
Plan now open at SOUNDY & Co.
PRICE Re. 3, 2, 1, and 8 annas.
CHILDREN Half Price.
Military and Navy half price to Re. 2 and Re. 1 seats.
Doors open at 8-30. Overture at 9-15.
Carriages at 11-15.
HARRY DENT,
Manager.

THE ADJOURNED SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of Members of the ROYAL BOMBAY YACHT CLUB will be held, at the Club House on WEDNESDAY, the 5th January, 1898, at 6 p.m.
By order of the Committee,
C. BOILEAU,
Secretary.

THE PRESS of LETTERS and TELEGRAMS do not permit Mr. ADAMJEE personally to write, and we are therefore asked to publicly thank all co-religionists and friends of Mr. ADAMJEE PEERBHOY, particularly from Home, Northern India, Guzerat, Madras, Rangoon and Ceylon, who were good enough to send Letters and Telegrams of congratulation on his election as Sheriff of Bombay for the ensuing year.

B. B. & C. I. RAILWAY.
NOTICE.
THE public are informed that on and from MONDAY, the 3rd proximo, SEASON TICKETS which have hitherto been issued from the Company's General Offices, in Church Gate Street, will be issued from the NEW OFFICES, opposite the Church Gate Station.
C. CROMMELIN,
Traffic Manager.
Bombay, 23rd December, 1897.

FOR SALE
AT MAHABLESHWAR.
THE PROPERTY, nearly 5 acres in extent, with a substantial building known as ELPHINSTONE HALL and VAL NINE LODGE, situated near the Government House and numbered 56 in the Survey Map of Mahableshwar.
AND
The PROPERTY, nearly 4 acres in extent, with two substantial buildings known as GROVE and BOWER, and a detached building known as office, situated near the Telegraph Office and numbered 13 in the Map. For particulars apply to
B. A. GUPTE,
General Secretary, Durbar, Indore.

MADRAS RACES.
1st SPRING MEETING 1898.
OWNERS are REMINDED that the 2nd Entrances for the 1st Spring Meeting to be held on the 25th, 27th and 29th January, 1898, close on SATURDAY, the 15th January, 1898.
Special attention is drawn to 1st para. of General Condition No. 8.
NOTICE.—Second Entry for Island Plate is Rs. 50, not Rs. 20, as shewn in Programme.
J. CAMPBELL,
Honorary Secretary, Madras Races.

THE BOMBAY NATIVE PIECE-GOODS MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION.
NOTICE is hereby given that the members of the Bombay Native Piece-Goods Merchants' Association, have renewed the existing freight contract with the Agents of the Anchor, Hall, Clan and City Lines of Steamers known as the "Conference Liners" for carriage of Piece-Goods intended or purchased by them or on their account from Glasgow, Manchester and other places in Great Britain and America to Bombay for the years 1898, 1899, and 1900 on the same rates that is 32s. 6d. per ton with an addition of 10 p.c. for primage from Manchester to Bombay and 15s. 6d. with 10 p.c. addition for primage from Glasgow to Bombay.
All goods ordered, indented, purchased or contracted to be purchased on behalf of the members of the Bombay Native Piece-Goods Merchants' Association must be shipped from and after the 1st January, 1898, up to 31st December 1900, in Steamers belonging to the said four lines only and none others.
२५७ नारणजी,
MOTILAL KHANJI,
JOINT HON. SECRETARY.

SEASONABLE CURES.
CARNAC ROAD PHARMACY.

MURKIMAR'S PILLS.—Antiseptic, Prophylactic and Preventative employed as a perfect safeguard against the attacks of Bubonic Plague, Malarial and Typhoid Fevers, Cholera, &c. Per box of 16 Pills. Ans. 4 only, at MADON, SONS & CO.

EUCALYPTUS DISINFECTANT.—A New Odorous and Powerful Germicide suitable for sick room and household disinfecting. Ans. 12 only, at MADON, SONS & CO.

COMPOUND SULPHUR LOZENGES AND TABLETS.—Prepared after the well-known formula of Dr. Sir Garrod. Most pleasant and attractive. Ans. 12 only, at MADON, SONS & CO.

SULPHUR AND SARSAPARILLA TABLETS.—This combination is used for purifying the blood from its impurities. Ans. 12 only, at MADON, SONS and CO.

MUNK'S ASTHMA BALSAM.—Most effective and a confirmed radical cure in Asthma and short or troubled breathing. Gives relief in five minutes. Rs. 2 only, at MADON, SONS and CO.

MUNK'S CODLACTONE.—The restorative food for the consumptive rickety children, delicate women and wasted constitution. Re. 1-0 only, at MADON, SONS AND CO.

MUNK'S PULMONICON.—No more troublesome coughing. A Marvel of Cough Remedies. Pleasant and agreeable to taste. Strengthens the Chest and Lungs. Ans. 12 only, at MADON, SONS and CO.,

PODOPHYLIN AND TARAXACUM.—A Liver Stimulant, especially useful to those who are troubled with Liver Disorders. Re. 1-8, at MADON, SONS and CO.

FOTHERGILL'S MADONAL.—Purchase your Health by these unique Health and Liver drops. Keeps at bay the human foes in the hot climate the Torpid Liver, itchy skin, stone in the bladder. Re. 1-10 and Rs. 2-12, at MADON, SONS and CO.

Chemists {MADON, SONS & Co.} Druggist
Esplanade Cross Road, Bombay.

SALES BY AUCTION.

MEHRJEE, JOHNSTON & Co.,
No. 4, FORBES & MEDOWS STREETS, FORT.

SALE OF VALUABLE JEWELLERY, BRILLIANTS, DIAMONDS, RUBIES, EMERALDS, PEARLS, &c., &c.

THIS DAY, TUESDAY, the 28th inst., at 2 p.m., Messrs. MEHRJEE, JOHNSTON and Co. will sell by Public Auction at their Sale Rooms, No 4, Forbes and Medows Streets, Fort, by order of Messrs. Jaitha Rhima and Co., the mortgagees, and with the consent of C. A. Turner, Esq., Official Assignee, H. C., and Assignee to the estate and effects of the mortgagees, and on account and at the risk of the mortgagors in the Nemlan and Girdharilal and Rikhubhas Vujalchand, insolvent, consisting of 1 pearl and emerald kunthi, 2 ruby hoop-rings, 2 brilliant rings, 2 brilliant rings about 20 ruti each, 1 brilliant ring about 14 ruti, 1 brilliant ring, large, about 22 ruti, 1 ruby ring scam colour, 1 diamond and pearl bracelet, 12 emerald moti about 42 ruti, 1 brilliant hoop-ring, 1 diamond ring 1 parcel pearl, small beads, about 11 tak, 2 bundles emerald moti about 200 ruti, 1 packet ruby potta, 2 brilliant diamonds loose, about 3 ruti, 29 brilliant diamonds about 10 ruti, 1 emerald taveez about 12½ ruti, 1 packet emerald about 9 ruti.

By order of the mortgagee, Mr. Moreshwar Bapuji Kothare, under the power of sale reserved to him by an indenture of mortgage, bearing date the 18th day of January, 1886, Messrs. MEHRJEE, JOHNSTON & Co. will sell by Public Auction, on account and risk of the mortgagor, Harishanker Bhaskerji on THURSDAY, the 30th day of December, 1897, at 4 p.m., on the premises, the undermentioned property:—
All that piece or parcel of land or ground, with the messuage, tenement, or dwelling-house standing thereon, situate on the east side of Girgaum or Breach Candy Road without the Fort of Bombay, in the Sub-District of Mandvi, containing by admeasurement 120 3-9 square yards or thereabouts, and bounded on the east by the farandari part of Sadanand Trimbakji Kale, on the west by Girgaum or Breach Candy Road, on the north by the property of Narayan Kashinathji, and on the south by the property of Dhondu Hirji, which said land is registered in the Great Rolls of the Collector of Bombay under Collector's old No. 6, new No. 19, old Survey No. 803, new Survey No. 7884, and which said house is assessed by the Collector of Municipal Taxes under D. Ward No. 270, Street No. 603, Girgaum Road, and which premises were formerly and are now in the occupation of the said Harishanker Bhaskerji and his tenants.
For further particulars and conditions of sale, apply to Messrs. Khanderao and Sirur-pad, the Attorneys for the mortgagee, at their office, situate at 23, Medows street, Fort, or to the undersigned.
MEHRJEE, JOHNSTON & Co.
Bombay, 24th December, 1897.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

THACKER & Co., LD.,
BOMBAY.

Messrs. Thacker & Co., Ltd., call the attention of public and private Book buyers to their facilities as Booksellers and Library Agents.

NEW BOOKS—
All new Books, Magazines and Newspapers, including Foreign Literature, are supplied promptly on the best Discount terms.

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Their Bound Stock is large and varied, and Customers can rely on the binding of their Own Books being executed with every care for their instructions. They have special experience in Strong, Cheap Bindings for Public Libraries, Station Clubs and Book Societies.

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A Catalogue of Orientalia will be sent on application, which includes some Old, Rare, Curious, and Useful Works.

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They are able to give expert attention to the complete fitting-up of Public or Private Libraries, and to the improvement and arrangement of existing Libraries and the execution of a Library Catalogue.

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If you do not receive their Monthly Catalogue of the latest publication, please ask for your name to be added to their Register. All New Books in every department of Literature will be found on their shelves shortly after publication in England.

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The most recent Books on these subjects are supplied by return of Post.

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Choice Works for Presentation. They need specify no details here beyond calling attention to their latest additions, Victor Hugo's Complete Works, translated and finally illustrated, 23 Vols., Rs. 1,100. Large paper and a smaller edition at Rs. 550. Zola complete, 12 Vols., Rs. 240. Court Memoir Series, 19 Volumes, Rs. 190. Historic Memoir Series, 19 Volumes, Rs. 190. Nude in Art, Rs. 84-0. Casanova Memoirs, 12 Vols., Rs. 250.

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A Lost Illusion	Leslie Keith.
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Hepsy Gipsy	L. T. Meade.
Toddleben's Hero	M. M. Blake.
The Gods give my Donkey Wings	Angus Evan Abbott.
My Stewardship	E. M'Queen Gray.
My Land of Beulah	Mrs. Leith Adams.
Jaco Treloar	J. H. Pearce.
THE SECRET OF MADAME DE MONLAC. By the Author of "Mdlle. Mori."	
DUMPS. By Mrs. Parr, Author of "Adam and Eve."	
IN TENT AND BUNGALOW. By the Author, of "Indian Idylls."	

Messrs. THACKER & Co., LD., draw attention to the exceptionally low Price at which the above Colonial Volumes are sold, viz., Re. 1-8 per Volume The ordinary Price for this series is Rs. 2-0 per Volume.

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Revised and corrected by the Hon. Mr. Justice STRACHEY, with Appendix.
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ARTISTIC, CHASTE, REFINED,
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Novel Combinations, new styles of Die stamping, specialities in Shapes, &c., &c.
Forming by far the most satisfactory Series of Christmas and New Year Cards that we have ever seen.

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AN ENTIRELY NEW SERIES OF
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REASONABLE IN PRICE.
GENIAL AND HONEST IN SENTIMENT.
THE PUBLIC LIKE THEM.

Messrs. Thacker and Co., Ld., have just received a large and beautiful collection from all the well-known manufacturers for the present season, at prices from Annas 2 to Rs. 10, and are prepared to send out selections on approval to known customers on the following conditions:—
1. The approximate number and value of the Cards required to be stated when ordering, and three or four times the quantity will then be sent for choice.
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LETTS'S DIARIES, 1898.
These popular Diaries are now ready. The collection is as extensive and complete as usual. Send size in inches, and number of days on a page.

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Cure in 48 hours! Price, each, Rs. 3 per Bottle.
THOUSANDS have been cured, some of whom had suffered more than twenty years.
Apply to—
MANAGER, V. C. WORKS,
Ranaghat, Bengal.

NOTICES.

BOMBAY MUNICIPALITY.
NOTIFICATION.
ARRANGEMENTS have been made for the OPENING of a PUBLIC CENTRAL STATION in H. H. Aga Khan's Bungalow, "KhasroolLodge," Nesbit Road, Mazagon, opposite St. Mary's College, for the inoculation of all persons wishing to avail themselves of Professor Haffkine's protective treatment against the Plague.
The hours of attendance will be between 8 and 10 a.m., and 2 and 5 P.M., daily, except Sunday. The Station will be opened on MONDAY, the 27th December, 1897, at 2 P.M.
By Order,
J. LEASK,
Ag. Health Officer.
Bombay, 23rd December 1897.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.
NOTICE is hereby given that Messrs. KILLICK, NIXON and Co., Merchants, Steamer and Insurance Agents, and Agents for THE TAPTI VALLEY RAILWAY Co., Ltd., THE AHMEDABAD-PRANTEJ RAILWAY Co., Ltd., and THE KOHINOOR MILLS Co., Ltd., intend REMOVING their Offices from Elphinstone Circle to WALLACE'S BUILDINGS, Apollo Street, on the 1st January, 1898.

NOTICE.
WE the Undersigned have made over our BUSINESS in BOMBAY and CALCUTTA to W. CROWDER and COMPANY, LIMITED, from the 1st December, 1897.
W. CROWDER AND CO.,
28, Apollo Street, Bombay,
and 6 Commercial Buildings, Calcutta.
Bombay, December 22nd 1897.

NOTICE.
WE have been AGENTS in BOMBAY and CALCUTTA for W. CROWDER and COMPANY LIMITED, Bombay and Calcutta.
W. CROWDER AND CO.
Bombay, December 22nd, 1897.

INSURANCES.

A FIRST CLASS INVESTMENT.
A provision for Self on retirement, or for Wife and Family in case of death.
Rs. 5 000 payable on attaining the age of 55, or to the estate should death happen before the above age is reached.
THE
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which is the OLDEST ESTABLISHED Life Office in the East, can issue a Policy for the above amount at the following rates:—

Age next birthday.	Monthly premium.
20	Rs. 12 14 8
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An additional payment of Rs. 5 per Rs. 1,000 on the year's premium would cover all war risks for Military Officers engaged in any part of the world on active service.
Rates for other amounts and all information regarding Life Assurance given on application to
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THE STANDARD, A SCOTTISH LIFE OFFICE of 72 years' standing, and one of the wealthiest and most progressive of the Provident Institutions of the United Kingdom.
PREMIUMS MODERATE,
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F. A. PREVOST,
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THE FUNDS have increased FIFTY PER CENT. during the last 15 years, and now amount to over
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ANNUITIES IMMEDIATE AND DEFERRED
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The fullest and latest information will be given regarding Assurances on application to
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GOVERNMENT SECURITY
LIFE ASSURANCE
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Those who desire the Best and Cheapest Assurance obtainable in India should effect a Policy with the ORIENTAL under the
NEW "ENGLISH PREMIUM" SYSTEM.
If the POLICY be effected now it will participate in the PROFITS for the past 3 years.
THE FUNDS
have more than Doubled during 5 years and now exceed
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As the Expenses of Management of the Oriental are lower than those of any other Company of the same age, it can afford to grant POLICIES with Exceptionable Benefits.
Economy, Moderate Premiums,
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unquestionable Security
being the principal
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Particulars and Forms may be obtained from
D. McLAUCHLAN SLATER, F.I.A.,
Manager and Actuary.
BOMBAY.

BEYNON'S
DISINFECTANTS.

	Rs.	a.		Rs.	a.
Sanyle Powder in 2 lb. tins	0	8	Perchloride of Mercury	4	0 lb.
" Liquid per gallon	3	0	Black Oxide of Manganese	2	0
Carbolic Acid per gallon	2	12	Permangate of Potash	125	0
" " Powder 10 per cent.	6	8 cwt.	Manganate of Soda	65	0
" " " 15 per cent.	9	12	Naphthaline Crystals	56	0
Cloride of Lime	20	0 cwt.	Carbolated Creasote	3	0 gallon

Condy's Fluid, Terebene and other Patent Disinfectants in Stock.
BEYNON & CO., {ENGLISH CHEMISTS,} BOMBAY & POONA

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"AULD SCOTTIE."
Extract "Lancet" 12th July, 1890.
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AULD" SCOTTIE WHISKY.
(JAMES MENZIES, GLASGOW.)
"THIS WHISKY contains 42·75 per cent. of absolute Alcohol equal to 86·28 per cent. of proof Spirit. The Residue, Dried at 100° C amounts to 0·25 per cent. It is a well-matured and excellent Whisky."
"AULD SCOTTIE" GAINED THE HIGHEST AWARD AT THE WORLD'S FAIR, CHICAGO.
Every Bottle enveloped in Wire, and bearing the Firm's Seal in Lead.
This Whisky was the only brand placed on the table at the St. ANDREW'S DINNERS AT CALCUTTA 1890-91-92-93, and the verdict was one of unanimous approval. It has pushed its way on its own merits.
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EVENING DRESS
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FROM RS. 55 CASH.

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WE beg to bring to the notice of the SPECTACLE wearing community, our following revised PRICE LIST:—

Menist's Spectacles.	Gold. Rs.	Silver. Rs.	Steel. Rs.
With Turnpin Sides	60	28	16
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Spectacles and Folders as above but fitted with Marcks and Co.'s Pebbles, Rs. 5 reduction on Gold and Silver, and Rs. 4 reduction on Steel. The new Gold and Steel "Movilette" Frames, fitted with Menist's or Marcks' Pebbles, prices as above.
All the newest patterns in Frames always in Stock. REPAIRS EXECUTED by the most EXPERIENCED WORKMEN at reasonable rates. OCULISTS PRESCRIPTIONS CAREFULLY PREPARED.
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Our celebrated, VIOLET TINTED, SUN, GLARE and DUST GLASSES, are invaluable to people who suffer from the extreme glare of a tropical climate. May be purchased in either Steel, Nickel, Silver or Gold Frames, Japanese cups, nickel gauze cups, Side tops with folding sides, folders and Globular Spectacles, from Rs. 5 per pair.
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SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	Yens 12,000,000
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CREDITS granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange Business transacted.
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PAID-UP CAPITAL	£500,000
RESERVE FUND	£200,000

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The Bank receives Deposits fixed for 1 year at 4½ per cent interest, and for shorter periods, at rates to be ascertained on application.
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DRAFTS are granted on the Head Office and Branches of the Bank and on the principal Cities of Europe and Australia. Remittances may be made by telegram.
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H. CHALMERS,
Manager.

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ESTABLISHED 1863.
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NOTE.—The RESERVE FUND will be INCREASED to Rs. 16,00,000 on payment of Balance of new Capital.
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C. BERESFORD,
Manager.
Bombay 20th July, 1897.

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Reserve Fund	$ 7,000,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	$ 100,00,000

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PARTIES are Cautioned against Spurious imitations and Cheap Brands of Whisky being sold as supplied to the House of Lords.
The only GENUINE HOUSE of LORDS BULK WHISKY as supplied to that Assembly during the last 18 years, is Saunders OB Brand in long Black Bottles. It is never shipped in Dumps or clear Bottles.
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PROF. H. WINTER,
THE GREAT AMERICAN INDIAN EXPERT,
Warrants
A CERTAIN PROPHYLACTIC for PLAGUE as he used this Wonderful Remedy in China during the late Epidemic where and sold thousands and thousands of bottles, which eventually was the chief stay of this dire disease. It is safe and sure and is just the article needed in every family. Professor WINTER is willing to supply Plague Hospital—for trial—Free of Charge.
Professor WINTER'S fame will be remembered by many as he was in Bombay 11 years ago. Professor Winter also warrants to Cure,
Hard and Soft Corns, Bunions, Chilblains, Ingrowing Nails and Warts.
Guarantees to take them out without pain or drawing blood and further guarantees to perform a perfect cure.
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FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL USE.
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Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Toothache, Headache, Earache, Catarrh, Sore Throat, Croup, Diphtheria, Pain in Side, Lame Back, Contracted Cords, Stiff Joints, Dyspepsia, Inflammation of Kidneys, Fever and Ague, Cholera Morbus, Diarrhœa, Congestive Chills, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, Scalds, Cuts, Wounds, Old Sores, Fever Sores, Ulcers, Caked Breast, Sore Nipples, All Aches, and Pains,
AND ALL DISEASES OF AN INFLAMMATORY NATURE.
Consultation Free of Charge.
Those who wish Mr. Winter to visit them will please send their address, and he will call on Mondays and Fridays between 2 and 3 p.m.
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The Professor speaks English, German, French, Spanish and Portuguese.
OFFICE HOURS from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Private interviews will be given between 1 and 3 p.m.
Will remain here up to 10th January, 1898.
ADDRESS,—APOLLO HOTEL, ROOM No. 36.

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Horses broken to single (Rs 15), and double Harness

BOMBAY.

TO-DAY.

Sun rises, 6h. 32m. Sun sets, 5h. 31m. High water, 2-22m., 3-43s. Low water, 8-35m., 8-13s.
Bombay Fox-hounds meet, Rifle Butts.
Music on the Esplanade, 5-45 p.m.

PRINCE'S DOCK.—The steamer Safari entered the dock on the 24th, the Ponani on the 25th, the Bahadur on Sunday, and the steamer Byculla yesterday; the steamer Janeta left it on the 24th, the Simla on the 25th, and the barque Parwadi yesterday.

VICTORIA DOCK.—The steamer Coromandel entered the dock on Sunday; the steamers Vadala and Vindobona left it on the 24th, and the steamer Amphitrite yesterday.

FAIR.—The annual Mahomedan fair, known as the Khoja Jamat-Khana Fair, commenced yesterday, and will continue for three days, at the Jamat Khana, Dongre.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.—About seven Goanese were fined from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 by the Chief Presidency Magistrate on the charge of being drunk and disorderly on Christmas Day.

THE NEW SHERIFF.—The managing committee of the Anjuman-I-Islam of Bombay have resolved to present an address of congratulation to Mr. Adamjee Peerbhoy on his selection to be the Sheriff of Bombay for the ensuing year. The address will be presented at a public meeting of the Anjuman.

BURGLARY AT WALKESHWAR ROAD.—Laximon Sadashiv, a goldsmith, having his place of business at Walkeshwar Road, has reported to the police that some time during Sunday night his shop was broken into, and gold and silver ornaments, belonging to his customers, valued at Rs. 187, were stolen from a locked box, which was forced open.

DELEGATES TO THE CONGRESS.—Messrs. Dinshaw Eduljee Wacha, Chimonlal Harlial Setalvad, and Rustom K. R. Cama left Bombay on Friday night by the Jubbulpore mail train to attend the Congress. They had obtained the required certificates from the Plague Committee, and were not detained in quarantine at Amraoti, where the Congress is to be held.

CARELESS DRIVING.—Inspector Jolliffe, yesterday, charged Sheikh Hussein Bahadur, a hack victoria driver, before the Chief Presidency Magistrate, with rash and negligent driving and causing damage to the carriage of Ramchand Narotum to the extent of Rs. 70. Accused was fined Rs. 20, and the parties were referred to the Civil Court for damage done to the carriage of the complainant.

CORRECTIONS.—Among those present at an evening entertainment given at Madhav Baug, a notice of which appeared in our paper of the 20th instant, the name of Mr. Purshotumdas Munguldas Nathubhoy was erroneously published for that of Mr. Jugmohundas Munguldas Nathubhoy, his brother.—In our report of the presentation of addresses to the Hon. Dr. Bhalchandra Krishna, Mr. Laxmidas Bhimjee was amongst those present, but by mistake we gave the name as that of Mr. Laximdas Khimjee.

TORTURING HACKS.—Yesterday, at the Esplanade Police Court, before Mr. J. Sanders-Slater, Chief Presidency Magistrate, Constable Brewin charged two Hindus, driver and proprietor, respectively, of a horse used in a hack victoria, with torturing the animal. The driver was fined Rs. 3 and the owner Rs. 10.—On a similar charge Ibrahim Nana and Sena Rana, driver and owner, respectively, of another horse were convicted. The driver was fined Rs. 5 and the owner was sent to jail for seven days, as they had previously been cautioned.

BURNT WITH CARBOLIC ACID.—Shaik Kassum Shaik Mahomed, a Mahomedan, aged thirty-five years, residing at Beay Road, whilst under the influence of liquor, at 11 a. m., on the 14th instant, jumped off a labour-cart, in which he had been driving, and in doing so fell on the ground. A bottle of carbolic acid, which was then in his pocket, broke, and the contents fell over his left thigh, burning him severely. The matter was not reported to the police until the 23rd instant, when the man getting worse, was removed to the J. J. Hospital, and detained under treatment.

GOLD FROM JOHANNESBURGH.—Before Mr. J. Sanders-Slater, Chief Presidency Magistrate, at the Esplanade Police Court, Rama Govind and Bhana Bhika Surti ghaswalla, were charged with robbing Chobaya Krishna of £28 sterling, which he brought from Johannesburgh. Complainant became ill in the steamer, and two or three of his friends advised him not to land at once as he might be removed to a plague hospital on suspecion. They asked the accused to carefully take him to his place. The accused broke open his box and removed the gold. The matter stands adjourned to enable the police to recover the gold.

POLICE TRANSFERS.—In consequence of the death of the late Mr. Superintendent Briscoe, of the Parel Division, the following transfers have been made amongst the European officers of the Bombay Police Force:—Inspector Lee Smith, of the Dock Police, has been transferred to F (Parel) Division as Superintendent of Police, in place of Mr. Briscoe, deceased; Inspector Walton, of the Mahaluxmi section, to the Dock; in place of Mr. Lee Smith; Inspector Wrafter, of the Dongree section, to Mr. Walton's place, and Constable Sullivan, who has been taken in the Force since Thursday last, has been posted in Mr. Wrafter's place at Dongree.

ACCIDENT TO GENERAL VENTRIS'S CARRIAGE.—Brigadier-General F. Ventris, Commanding the Bombay District, was, at 7 o'clock, last evening, driving in his carriage towards the Marine Lines, when near the New Offices of the B. B. and C. I. Railway, the carriage accidentally came in collision with a mail coach, belonging to Mr. Moraji Jairam Narsaji, a Bhatia merchant, and which was coming from the opposite direction. The horse attached to the General's carriage became unmanageable, and dashing on, ran the carriage on the footpath, damaging it considerably. The General at once jumped out and escaped unhurt. The horse was injured.

MUSIC ON THE ESPLANADE.—The Band of the Bombay Volunteer Rifles will play the following programme, under the direction of Signor Lagattolla, at the Esplanade Bandstand, this evening, at 5-45:—

Introduction and Chorus	Carmen		Bizet.
Overture	Semiramide		Rossini.
Valse	L'Etoile Polaire		Waldteufel.
Selection	Bohemian Girl		Balfe.
Diana's Call (With Echo)			Pandit.
Galop	Champagne		Schirbel.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

ALLEGED CHEATING BY A SOLDIER.—Frederick Williams, a gunner in the Royal Artillery, now stationed at Colaba, was, yesterday, brought up before the Chief Presidency Magistrate, in lieu of the warrant obtained against him by Bull and Company, on a charge of cheating in respect of goods valued at Rs. 190. The accused sent an order to Messrs. Bull and Company, stating that provisions were required for over a hundred men for the Red Club annual water picnic in connection with the Royal Artillery. On the day mentioned in the letter the provisions were sent, and complainants subsequently found out that the goods were received by false representations. Accused was identified, and the matter was adjourned.

DROWNED IN A TANK.—Shivram Bhow, a Hindu, aged about eighteen years, residing with his uncle at Bhoiwada, Naigaum, and employed as a hamal in the service of Mr. Dadabhoy Dhunjibhoy, of Chamar Baugh, went to bathe in a tank in the compound of his master's premises at 3 o'clock on the afternoon of Chisimas Day, after having had his head shaved. As Shivram did not return his master sent another servant for him. The latter shouted for him, but receiving no reply, proceeded to the tank, which is an old quarry-hole, and found that Shivram had disappeared, but that his dhotur and cap were lying on a stone closeby. The servant informed his master, who concluded that Shivram must have been drowned in the tank, and directed a Purdassi to dive in. As a result of this, the body of the hamal was recovered in about half-an-hour, life being extinct. On the following morning Mr. Turner, the coroner, held an inquiry on view of the body of the deceased at Sonari Baugh Road, when the jury on the evidence brought in a verdict of accidental death.

CHRISTMAS DINNERS.—The annual Christmas dinner to the inmates of the Royal Alfred Sailors' Home, provided under the immediate supervision of Mr. C. Lauder, the courteous Superintendent, was grand and well served, as testified by the cheers given by the 160 sailors belonging to H. M.'s ships Red Breast and Sphinx and to the merchant shipping, in honour of Mr. Lauder. The entertainment was provided from the funds of the Home, the directors of which were duly toasted, after the usual Royal toasts had been honoured. The premises were tastefully decorated with banners and bunting, with flowers and evergreens, and displayed a gay appearance. The decorations on the tables were artistic, and the good cheer provided at the banquet was on a sumptuous scale. Mr. Lauder, in replying to the toast accorded to him, wished the "Jolly Tars" all manner of health and prosperity. The inmates of the Government House and of the Strangers' Home were also provided with good dinners, nineteen covers having been provided in the former institution.

BURNT TO DEATH.—Mr. Allan F. Turner, the coroner, held an inquiry, on Saturday, at 9th Street Kamatipura, touching the death of Jaya, a Hindu girl, aged four years, daughter of one Dhugdoo Hurree, a labourer, residing in that locality. About 8 o'clock, on Friday morning last, the mother was cooking and the deceased was seated near the fire-place. Shortly after the mother went to the rear of the house, leaving deceased in the kitchen, and about five minutes after Jaya was heard screaming out that she was burnt. A neighbour ran into the kitchen on hearing the cry and found a piece of saree wrapped round the deceased's neck in flames. The neighbour pulled the burning saree off the deceased and extinguished the flames by pouring a chatty full of water over them, but not before the girl was extensively burnt all over her face, chest, left arm, and right hand. A policeman was sent for and the deceased was conveyed to the J. J. Hospital, where after the burns had been dressed the mother brought Jaya home, where she became worse and died the same evening. A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

A HOTEL COACHMAN STAMPED ON BY A HORSE.—Nursey Lala, aged sixty years, lately a coachman employed in the service of the proprietors of the Apollo Hotel, and residing in the hotel premises, died, on Saturday evening, at the J. J. Hospital, of tetanus following an injury to his right foot. It appears from an inquiry held by Mr. Turner, the coroner, on the following morning at the hospital, that about a month ago the deceased was grooming a horse, when the animal suddenly stamped on his right foot, causing a wound on the second toe. A wet bandage was applied to the wounded toe, and Nursey continued to do his work until Friday night last, when he complained of pain in his neck. Next morning he grew worse and on his master being informed of his condition, he had the deceased removed to J. J. Hospital, where he was found to be suffering from tetanus. The injured toe was amputated and he was placed under medical treatment. The tetanic symptoms, however, did not improve, he rapidly became worse, and died the same evening. A verdict of death in accordance with the foregoing facts was recorded.

DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT AT BANDORA.—A dramatic entertainment was given, last evening, at 7-15 p.m., at the old St. Thomas School Building, Bazaar Road, Bandora, by the members of the Blue Cross Cricket Club, Scenes from "The Vacant Post" being the piece selected. The performers were Edward D'Sylva, Pascolino D'Souza, Francis Hodges, Paul J. Gomes, Dominick M. Gomes, and John F. Dias, who, though of a comparatively young age, all acted their parts creditably. The performance was interspersed with solos on violin and cornet, which were well rendered, the first securing an encore, which was responded to. The interviews between the Managing Director of the Evermore Mining Company, and the Secretary and the Clerk and Tailor created great amusement, and everything passed off well, but for an accident to the drop-scene, which caused some inconvenience and slightly marred the otherwise very interesting performance. The school building was lent for use by Mr. Coates, who was duly thanked after the performance. The Secretary, John A. Gomes, and the captain, DeMello, deserve thanks for getting up the entertainment. Thanks are also due to Messrs. J. J. Quadros, Michael Gonsalves, Peter Albuquerque, Dick D'Sylva, and others who rendered invaluable assistance to the young performers.

A NEW F.R.C.S.—Dr. B. H. Nanavati, who has successfully passed the examination of a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh), returned by the last mail to Bombay. Dr. Nanavati has been in the service of Government for the last sixteen years, being connected for the last ten years with the Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Medical School, at Ahmedabad, where he has been appointed as a lecturer on Surgery and Midwifery. Some time ago, when he presented himself for the Grade Examination in Bombay, Dr. Gray, the then Principal of the Grant Medical College, was so greatly impressed with his abilities that he recommended Dr. Nanavati for a special promotion. About eight months ago he went to England for the double purpose of recruiting his health and for qualifying himself in ophthalmic art, which he studied at the Royal Ophthalmic Hospital in London, and obtained the necessary qualification as a specialist in this branch. He then presented himself for the F. R. C. S. (Edinburgh), and was successful in acquiring the distinction which Dr. Nanavati is the first Indian of Western India to have attained. He is also a Fellow of the Obstetrical Society of London. He has contributed various original articles on professional subjects, the chief of which were on Leprosy and Cataracts. He is a Fellow of the Bombay University, and a leading Surgeon of Ahmedabad.

NOT A PLAGUE CASE.—About noon, on Christmas Day, one Mahadoo Bhowanee, a labourer, aged about thirty-five years, was sent to the Goculdas Tejpal Hospital for admission by the medical officer in charge of the Arthur Road Hospital, with in his report stated that it was not a case of any contagious disease, but that the patient was suffering from symptoms of tetanus brought on by an injury to his foot. The patient, who was quite conscious on admission, stated that about twelve days ago he was working in the Prince's Dock, when a piece of iron nail, which he was carrying, accidentally fell on his left great toe, causing a contused wound. He applied some household remedies to the injured toe, and was doing well until about four days previous, when symptoms of tetanus set in, and while he was lying in that condition his house was visited by one of the Tustless Committee, medical officer serving the Plague Committee, who, thinking his case to be that of plague, had him conveyed to the Arthur Road Hospital, whence after the disease had been properly diagnosed, he was despatched to the Goculdas Hospital. After admission in the latter Institution, Mahadoo grew worse and died at 3 o'clock on Sunday morning. An inquiry was held by Mr. Turner, the coroner, at the Goculdas Tejpal Hospital, on Sunday morning, on view of the body of the deceased, when a verdict of accidental death in accordance with the above facts was returned by the jury.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT THE PEEROO MAHOMED MILL.—On the evening of the 11th instant a number of male and female labourers were engaged in removing earth from the excavations made in the compound of the Peeroo Mahomed Mills, for the foundation of the extension of the mill premises. One side of the excavations had been shored up and preparations were being made to shore up the other sides, where the labourers had been working under the supervision of a mucadum. Suddenly the unshored up sides of the excavations gave way, and a large quantity of earth fell in, burying one Jaya, a woman, aged about twenty years, a resident of Duncan Road, and another female labourer, both of whom were at the bottom of the excavations. They were extricated with all possible speed, when it was found that Jaya was unconscious, having sustained several serious injuries all over her body, but the other woman was not seriously injured. They were placed in a victoria and conveyed to the J. J. Hospital, where on examination it was ascertained that Jaya had sustained fractures of the upper and lower jaws, of the nasal bone, of the right thigh, and of four ribs on the right side. She was detained under treatment, but her fellow-worker, who had sustained slight contusions, was attended to and allowed to go home. On the following morning Jaya exhibited symptoms of fever, which steadily increased in severity, and she died on Friday night. Mr. Allan F. Turner, the coroner, held an inquiry on view of the body of the deceased on the following morning at the J. J. Hospital. The mucadum of labourers who supervised the works done at the excavations, in his evidence stated that he had warned all the labourers not to remain in the excavations while the sides were being scraped for putting in shorings, and that deceased had no business to remain at the bottom after the warning had been given. The jury on the evidence brought in a verdict of accidental death.

THE MARATHA AIKYA-ITCHU SABHA.—The tenth annual gathering of the Sabha was held on Sunday, at Madhav Baugh, when Dewan Bahadur Manibhai Jasbhai, ex-Dewan of Baroda, presided. From the report read by the secretary, it appears that the Sabha showed good work during the year, though much hampered in its work of holding open air meetings and thus educating the backward classes on account of the plague and famine. After the report was read many gentlemen addressed the meeting, fully sympathising with the objects of the Sabha. Messrs. Vartak, Bhiwa Ramjee Nare Patel, and Kashinath Pankhare giving a practical turn to their sympathies by contributing Rs. 15, Rs. 10, and Re. 1, respectively, on the spot. The president, who was received with loud cheers, made an eloquent speech, in which he approves of the objects of the Sabha, and promised substantial help to it. He then distributed prizes in the shape of books (some of which were provided by the honoured president himself) to some eighty-four deserving boys of the Hindu backward classes attending private and aided schools in Bombay, and in the shape of money to Mr. Balkrisna Babajee Vartak, whose essay on "The Insanitary conditions of the backward classes, its causes, and remedies," was approved of by the managing committee of the sabha. The Dewan Bahadur was then garlanded, and flowers and pan were distributed. After a vote of thanks to the worthy president and to the owners of the baugh, who kindly lent their hall for the occasion, the proceedings came to an end. Amongst those that attended themeeting may be mentioned the following:—Drs. Atmaram Pandurang, Dhargalkar and Walkar, Rao Bahadur Pitale, Rao Saheb Oka, Pleaders Satghare and Korgawker, Messrs. Tribhowandas Mungaldas, J. P., Jaya Karadi Lingu, J. P., R. B. Malap, J. P., Narayen Trimbuk Valdya, Kashinath Narayen Dhotre, Anandrao R. Talcherker, Tukaram R. Korgaoker, Vinayekrao Dadajee, Dadajee Bhanajee, Shivshanker Malojee, Narayen Hari, Moroba Bhikajee, Parulker, Paleker, Desai, Sawant, Mohite, and many others.

THE WORLI FIRE RELIEF FUND.

MR. M. C. MURZBAN begs to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following further contributions to the Worli Fire Relief Fund:—

	Rs.
Dr. Ismail Jan Mahomed	10
C. H. L. S.	5
Total	15
Amount previously acknowledged	1,113
Grand total	1,128

THE CITY MORTALITY.

SATURDAY.

THE Municipal Office returns for the twenty-four hours ending 6 a.m. on Saturday give the following results:—

Ward.	Plague Attacks.	Plague Deaths.	Deaths from all Causes.
A Middle and Lower Colaba	4	0	5
B Mandvi, Chuna, and Dongri	13	4	30
C Dhobi Talao, Fanaswadi, Bhuleshwar, & Kumbharwada	4	2	22
D Khetwadi, Girgaum, and Walkeshwar	3	1	6
E 2nd Nagpada, Kamatipura, Tardeo, and Byculla	9	1	37
F Parel	0	0	9
G Mahim	0	0	7
Water Division	0	2	2
Non-Resident and unknown	0	0	9
Hospitals	0	12	15
Total	33	23	136
Same date last year	46	49	258
Total mortality same date 1895			64

SUNDAY.

The Municipal Office returns for the twenty-four hours ending 6 a.m. on Sunday give the following results:—

Wards.	Plague Attacks.	Plague Deaths.	Deaths from all Causes.
A Middle and Lower Colaba, and Fort Northern	4	0	4
B Mandvi and Umarkhadi	3	0	15
C Market, Dhobi Talao, Bhuleshwar and Khumbharwada	11	4	32
D Khetwadi, Girgaum and Mahalakshmi	5	0	9
E Mazagon, Tarwadi, 2nd Nagpada, Kamatipura, and Byculla	9	4	35
F Parel	0	1	8
G Mahim and Worlee	0	0	2
Water Division	0	0	0
Non-resident and unknown	0	0	3
Hospitals	0	16	17
Total	32	24	131
Same date last year	65	53	282
Total mortality same date 1895			55

MONDAY.

The Municipal Office returns for the twenty-four hours ending 6 a.m., yesterday, give the following results:—

Wards.	Plague Attacks.	Plague Deaths.	Deaths from all Causes.
A Middle & Lower Colaba, and Fort, Northern	5a	0	6
B Mandvi, Chukla, and Dongri	4b	2	13
C Market, Bhuleshwar, Khara Talao, and Khumbharwada	6	7	31
D Khetwadi, Chowpati, and Walkeshwar	5	1	7
E Mazagon, 2nd Nagpada, Kamatipura, Byculla, and 1st Nagpada	12	4	31
F Parel and Sion	1	0	6
G Mahim	0	0	7
Water Division	0	0	1
Non-resident and unknown	0	0	0
Hospitals	0	15	30
Total	33	29	132
Total plague deaths to date	14,184	11,397	
Same date last year	73	56	275
Total mortality same date 1895			98

a From Verawal, five days per Batala All Madet.
b From Ahmedabad, two days.

CHOLERA.

Attack	0
Death	1

PROF. HAFFKINE'S ANTI-PLAGUE INOCULATION.

As recently published statistics have shown, the success which attended inoculations with Prof. Haffkine's anti-plague serum, last cold weather, was very striking. The people were re-assured of their safety and the simple process of inoculation inspired them with confidence. It is, therefore, no wonder that the re-opening of the inoculation ward has been greatly welcomed. With his usual generosity his Highness Sultan Mahomed Shah Aga Khan has placed his beautiful mansion, at Nesbit Road, called Khushro Baugh, at the disposal of Prof. Haffkine for the purposes of a Plague Research Laboratory and an Anti-plague Inoculation station. By doing this his Highness has given additional proof of his sympathy with the poor. The re-opening of the station at Khushro Baugh for the purposes of inoculation took place yesterday in the presence of his Highness the Aga Khan and several other leading citizens of Bombay. Amongst those present were: His Highness Sultan Mahomed Shah, Mr. E. D. Sassoon, Dr. Leon, Rev Weindgartein, Rector of St. Mary's College, Mr. J. Lessk, the Acting Health Officer, and Drs. Rozario, Shroff, and Ranina. The inoculation was commenced at 2 p.m. About a dozen persons were operated, amongst them being several servants of his Highness the Aga Khan. One of the inoculated persons was a small Mahomedan boy, seven years of age, who was quite at ease and did not feel the least pain when the serum was injected by Prof. Haffkine. After the inoculation was over, Prof. Haffkine and H. H. the Aga Khan took the party round the bungalow, which is admirably fitted up, not only for the purposes of inoculation, but also for the culture of the serum. The groundfloor is divided into several apartments. There are separate rooms for the accommodation of ladies and children and for men. The inoculation room is on the groundfloor. The upper floor is reserved for a laboratory and for a class for giving instructions to medical men as to the way in which the serum is prepared. A big hall is converted into a "dark-room" for the repository of serum for seventeen days before being used for the purposes of inculation. The arrangements in the bungalow are all that could be desired.

MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS.

The reports made by the medical officers of the various districts to the Plague Committee on Saturday morning showed that ten justices and five medical practitioners inspected the whole district of Colaba up to the Depot and discovered three cases of plague, one from the Cotton Green, another from Thomas Street, and the third from Nowroji Street, all of which were removed to the Arthur Road Hospital. Two suspicious cases of fever, one from the Victoria Bunder and another from Thomas Street, were removed to the Grant Road Hospital. Nearly 325 houses and chawls were visited in Dongree, Chuckla, Oomercarry, and other localities of the Mandvie ward and one case of bubonic plague and eight cases of suspicious fever were detected and sent to the various hospitals. Four deaths from plague were also recorded in the same district. In C ward, Bhuleshwar and Fanaswady each showed a case of plague. One death from plague was recorded in the Dhobie Talao section. In E ward, four suspicions cases of plague, one from Haines Road and three from Mazagon District, were recorded. One case of plague was reported from the Parel section. Sunday's reports showed that two suspicious cases of fever were detected, one from Koli Lane and another from Nowroji Street, Colaba, the former being removed to the Grant Road Hospital and the latter to the Jain Hospital. Two cases were discovered in the Fort District, one from Bohra Musjid Lane, and another from Bohra Bazaar Street, and were removed to the Arthur Road Hospital. A police ramosee, doing duty in the Fort, but a resident of C ward, was reported ill by the police. It was found to be a case of plague, and he was removed to the Hindu Fever Hospital. Nearly two hundred houses and chawls were examined in the Mandvie ward and six cases of plague and three of suspicious fever were detected and despatched to various hospitals. Two deaths from plague were also recorded in the same ward. Two cases of plague were reported from Carpenter Street, C ward, and removed to the hospital. Three medical officers inspected 286 houses in D ward. Dr. Servai removed a case of plague from house No. 22, Khetwadi 4th Lane, to the Hindu Fever Hospital. Dr. S. B. Jathar detected and removed a case of plague to the Arthur Road Hospital. There were no cases in the remaining districts.

Yesterday's reports showed that two cases were detected in the Fort section, one in the Goga Street by Mr. Bomanji Byramjee Patel, J. P., and another in the Bazaar Gate Street, by Dr. Nariman, and the patients, both of whom were Parsees, were removed to the Parsee Fever Hospital. Two cases of bubonic fever were reported from the Mandvie ward. In C ward, three cases and two deaths from plague were recorded in the Market section and one death in the Kumbarwada section. Dr. Shroff examined a dead body in Mr. O'Callaghan's bungalow, at Pawai Road, and found that death was due to plague. In E ward two cases of plague were recorded, one in Goozri Bazaar, and the other in the Carpenter Street, Mazagon.

HOSPITAL RETURNS.

The number of patients remaining under treatment in the various Plague Hospitals, yesterday, was as follows:—Arthur Road, 126; Parel (Government House), 47; Hindu Fever, 28; Jain (Bhuleshwar), 18; Grant Road, 17; Adamji Peerbhoy, 10; Julai, 8; Bhoiwada, 6; Dariasthan, 6; Nizampoora, 5; Marwadi, 4; Bhatia, 2; and Jain 2.

QUARANTINE REPORTS.

The number of patients detained under quarantine in the several Segregation Camps, yesterday, was as under:—Modikhana, 1,937; Wari Bunder, 466; and Narelwadgy, 111.

Second Lieutenant W. P. N. Hicks, 21st Bombay Infantry, is placed on Plague duty, Bombay, vice Lieutenant H. S. Strong, 8th Bombay Infantry, relieved.

DONATIONS TO PAREL HOSPITAL.

Surgeon-Captain Jennings desires to acknowledge with very many thanks the following gifts for the use of the poor patients in the Parel Plague Hospital:—From Mrs. Bhikajee Jehanghir Mody, twenty-four blankets and six bottles o rum; from Mrs. Awabai Framjee Dinshaw Petit, fifty blankets and twelve bottles of rum; from Mr. Nathan Balls, twelve bottles of rum; and from Mr. Dorabjee Dinshaw Adenwalla, twenty-four blankets and twelve bottles of rum.

Some of the ruses adopted by travellers from infected areas to avoid inspection and the possible risk of detention were brought to the notice of the Plague Conference, and they show an amount of cunning that will require not a little ingenuity to check. We have already referred to the case of the three sailors, two of whom broke journey three times, and to passengers who managed to get out unnoticed at way-side railway stations, reappeared as innocent villagers, and re-booked forward. Others have improved on this method by taking tickets for stations short of the inspecting junction and then travelling by foot to there to re-book, from which an extent was this attempted that in one instance a considerable demand for means of conveyance by road was in process of development when the police cut in and spoiled the trade. At Khana a new departure was made in the shape of substitutes who managed by a rapid interchange of tickets to enter themselves for examination and possible detention while real travellers from infected areas escaped observation. But for the activity of the police in this matter also, a profitable means of livelihood would have presented itself to the Calcutta loafer, who, for a consideration, was quite willing to "officiate" for the Marwari passenger travelling on urgent business. The return-ticket dodge, which we mentioned some days ago, was really the cleverest of all: it would probably not have been detected had not travellers boasted to their fellow-passengers (among whom was a detective) of the success which had attended their methods of evasion. It will be interesting to see how the Plague Conference propose to legislate for travellers of this class, who not only possess ingenuity but are persons of substance, as they can afford to pay for a full return ticket though only using one-half of it. The cost involved in carrying out this plan is probably the greatest barrier against its frequent adoption. The Conference, moreover, could not be expected to stop all the schemers who have set their wits to work to evade inspection: it could not do more than make matters as difficult as possible for them.

THE EVENING POSTAL DELIVERY.

WITH reference to the continued late delivery of the evening post, Mr. W. P. Symonds, Postmaster-General, writes to us:—"In a short para. in your issue of Friday you remark on the lateness of the delivery of the Calcutta post, and say that the time seems to have arrived for a reconsideration of the question of the despatch of the post from up-country. It seems to have been overlooked that the present arrangements are the result of the revised train service introduced only a few months ago, under which the mails that used to arrive in Bombay in the morning now arrive at 3-30 p.m. the previous afternoon. An express train running 1,400 miles is apt to be a little late, and the post cannot ordinarily be delivered before 5 or 5-30. But it should be remembered that the hour of arrival, 3-30 p.m., was agreed to as a special concession to Bombay, as it involves an inconveniently early start from Calcutta. In the opposite direction, the mail train is timed to arrive at Howrah at 6-27 p.m. (Railway time), and I see from your paper that it actually arrives at present about 8 p.m. If the train service to Bombay were reconsidered as you suggest, the time of arrival at Bombay would probably be made the same as the time of arrival at Howrah. The fact that on Saturday the mails arrive in time to go on board at the appointed time is hardly to the point, as a special train is run at high speed and great cost on purpose to catch the mail steamer, which cannot start till the mails are on board."

D'ARC'S FANTOCHES FRANCAISES.

THE present festive season is being made all the pleasanter both for the young ones and for many "children of a larger growth" by the Marionettes performing at the Tivoli Theatre. One agreeable surprise after another appeals to the spectator, and the movements of the figures are remarkably life-like. Scenic effect and genuine fun are agreeably intermingled. There are no long intervals between the acts, and one scene succeeds another with lightening rapidity. The programme is a very varied one including a fantoccini of performances both clever and amusing; the jokes and songs of a large party of Court Minstrels; a pantomime of Robinson Crusoe, bringing in clown harlequin, columbine and pantaloon; and this is followed by "half-an-hour of side-splitting fun and frolic," in which clown and pantaloon meet with some curious experiences. The closing transformation scene, "A Sailor's Dream," is very pretty and fairylike. The other maritime scenes—the war at sea followed by the sinking of Robinson Crusoe's boat, and the Divers in which the war of survival of the fittest is being constantly waged—are almost equally fascinating. There is nothing tawdry or shabby about the dresses of the marionettes or the stage fittings, and the visitor leaves the theatre after two hours' enjoyment without feeling that he has seen a show which is the worse for wear. The performances of the Marionettes are given every night, and the next matinee will take place on New Year's Day.

THE following are among recently proved wills:—By his will, with codicils, Sir William Alexander Mackinnon, of 28, Evelyn-gardens, Honorary Surgeon to the Queen and formerly Director-General of the Army Medical Department, left a legacy of £100 to be paid to the Society of the Sons of the Clergy, of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh, and he bequeathed £2,000 to the University of Edinburgh upon trusts, to found prizes or scholarships, to be called "The Mackinnon Scholarships," for proficiency in geology, natural history (together with comparative anatomy), and modern foreign languages. Sir William Mackinnon left all the residue of his property in trust for the Royal Society at Burlington House, for the purpose of furthering natural and physical science, including geology and astronomy, and for the furtherance of original research and investigation in pathology, by prizes and scholarships. His personal estate has been valued at £25,567 17s. 6d., so that the bequest to the Royal Society, after payment of the duties, will probably exceed £16,000. Mrs. C. Laurie Armitage, £300,000; Mr. Horatio Brandon, £101,500; Mr. Edmond Calverley, £150,288; Miss Charlotte Maria Carbonell, £45,121; Captain Ferrars Compton Clarges Loftus, £27,643; Mr. Francis Newbould, £42,453; Mr. William West, £19,500.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

MONDAY, the 10th January, has been fixed as the last day for receiving nominations of candidates to represent the different wards of the city on the new Municipal Corporation, which comes into existence on the 1st April next; while Monday, the 17th January, has been fixed for the general ward elections to come off subsequent to the nominations. The undermentioned candidates have come forward in the seven wards into which the city has been divided:—

Fort Ward.—Six seats. Messrs. Nowrojee Jehangir Gamadia, Kavasjee Merwanjee Shroff, Kaliandas Keshavdas, Mir Aun Alli Abdul Alli, Dinshaw Eduljee Wacha, Dr. N. N. Katrak, and Mr. Goverdhandas Goculdas Tejpal.

Mandvi Ward.—Eight seats. Dr. Ismail Jan Mahomed, Mr. Ibrahim Rahimtula, Rao Saheb Vithalrao K. Wandekar, Messrs. Fazalbhoy Joomabhoy Lalljee, Rahimtula Khairaj, Goolam Hoosein Allana Munjee, Dr. A.G. Viegas, Mr. Mahomedbhoy Currimbhoy Ebrahim, and Dr. Nadirshah H. Sukhia.

Bhuleshwar Ward.—Eight seats. Rao Bahadur Dhakjee Kasinathjee, Mr. Tribhowands Varjivandas Madhavdas, Dr. K. N. Bahadhurjee, Messrs. Vithaldas Damodar Thackersey, Tribhowandas Mungaldas, Jugmohandas Vaudravandas Bhalsett, Dr. Underwood, Messrs. Rattiram Durgaram Dave, Kursondas Chubildas Lallcobhoy, Mahomedbhoy Adumjee Peerbhoy, and Pranjivandas Cullandas.

Girgaum Ward.—Five seats. The Hon'ble Dr. Bhalchandra Krishna: Dr. Kavasjee Eduljee Dadachanjee, Messrs. Sundernath Dinamath Khote, Hari Sitaram Dikshit, Messrs. Hormusjee Shapurjee Chothia, and Rustom Pestonjee Jehangir.

Byculla Ward.—Five seats. Messrs Sorabjee Cursetji Dhondy, C. Hewett, Hajee Yusuff Hajee Ismail, Jaya Karadi Lingoo, Shapurjee Byramjee Katrak, Kazi Kabirudin, Rao Saheb Ellapa Ballaram, and Mr. Shivajee Dhurmajee.

Parel Ward.—Two seats. Messrs. Cursetjee Nasarvanjee Ardasir Wadia, Bhugwandas Narotundas, and Jamsetjee Ardasir H. Wadia.

Mahim Ward.—Two seats. Mr. Ardasir Framjee Unwalla and Dr. D. A. DeMonte.

It will be seen that there are 46 candidates for the 32 seats at the disposal of the ratepayers. All the candidates are members of the present Corporation, except fourteen who have come forward in the first six wards respectively as follows:—1. Mr. Goverdhandas Goculdas Tejpali. 2. Dr. Nadirshah H. Sukhia. 3. Messrs. Vithaldas Damoder Thackersey, Rattiram Durgaram Dave, Kursondas Chabildas Lallcobhoy, Mahomedbhoy Adumjee Peerbhoy, and Pranjivandas Cullandas. 4. Messrs. Hormusjee Shapurjee Chothia and Rustom Pestonjee Jehangir. 5. Messrs. Shapurjee Byramjee Katrak, Kazi Kabirudin, Rao Saheb Ellapa Ballaram and Mr. Shivajee Dhurmajee. 6. Mr. Jamsetjee Ardasir H. Wadia. In the seventh, the Mahim ward, there are two seats and two candidates, both members of the present Corporation. The last is the only ward in which there is no contest up to date.

A GOLD STANDARD FOR INDIA.

AN APPEAL TO GOVERNMENT.

MR. W. PARSONS, Secretary, Bengal Chamber of Commerce, writes as follows to Mr. J. F. Finlay, Secretary to the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department, under date the 22nd instant:—

In their despatch of 15th September last, No. 261, to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, the Government of India, repeatedly stated their adherence to the policy of establishing a gold standard as the monetary system of India, and expressed their opinion in various places in the despatch, that the transition period between the rejection of silver and the adoption of the gold standard was drawing to a close, and that the gold standard was on the eve of being effectively established.

This declaration of policy has been carefully noted by the mercantile community, which is interested, above all things, in the establishment of the fixity of Exchange. The Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, however, are unable to perceive the grounds for the confidence expressed by Government that the period of transition was near its end. So far the experience of the three months which have passed, since the despatch was written, would not seem to point to the speedy attainment of the end in view, for exchange has fluctuated violently, and there has been an appreciable decline in the sterling value of the rupee, followed, as the Committee write, by a very smart rise.

The mercantile community share the desire of the Government of India, that the period of transition should not be unnecessarily prolonged, and the opportunities of speculation in exchange, of which the fullest advantage is being taken in some quarters to the great detriment of legitimate trade, should be reduced or removed. The position is, briefly, that the Government have definitely abandoned the silver standard with a view to the establishment of a gold standard, and that for the moment there is, as stated in para. 25 of the despatch now under reference, no currency system at all in India. The Government have waited for more than four years since the closing of the mints in the hope that the gradual contraction of the silver currency would be accompanied, or followed by the replacement of rupees by gold. This hope as been disappointed, and never more plainly than at the moment when the Government expressed their greatest confidence in the success of the policy of waiting.

It is clear that the policy of waiting may involve an indefinite prolongation of the period of transition, with all its trouble and harrassment to trade. While it is entirely inexpedient that the present position should continue for a day longer than can be helped, the Committee would deprecate any sudden action being taken by Government, which would result in a mine, as it were, being sprung on the mercantile and banking communities, and are induced to enquire whether Government have in contemplation any measures for the introduction of the gold standard; and, if so, whether they will state what they are with a view to their discussion, and with a view also to the relief of the minds of bankers and traders, whose operations, in present circumstances, are surrounded with the greatest

SPECIAL SHORT ADVERTISEMENTS.

The Scale for these Advertisements is as follows :—No exceeding 3 lines, Re. 1, each succeeding line, As. 8 No Trade Advertisements are admitted under this Scale.

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CONCENTRATED ESSENCE of CHIRETTA is a purely vegetable Tonic, and peculiarly adapted in diseases of the Liver and Debility attendant on Fever, etc., Re. 1 per bottle. Prepared by THOMSON and TAYLOR, 35, Esplanade Road, Bombay.

CLIFTON, BRISTOL.—A FURNISHED HOUSE, TO LET, at Clifton, from the end of April for six or twelve months, 3½ guineas a week.—Full particulars and photo at Messrs. THOMAS COOK and SON'S OFFICE, Bombay.

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DEATHS FROM CHOLERA:—Municipality of Bombay, Superintendent, Water Works, Chinchpokli, 29th Oct. 97. Memo. No. 1738-54 of 1897-98:—Many of my workmen residing in the Municipal Chawls at Chinchpokli were attacked by Cholera and they have been SAVED by Ratliwalla and Co.'s "CHOLERAL." There was not a single case of failure. I wish it should have still more wider circulation. . . . As for Ratliwalla's Ague Mixture or Pills no more Testimonials are required when they are used with success for the Staff of the Bombay Municipality "Bombay Gazette," "Times of India," "Advocate of India" &c., &c. Sold by Chemists and Druggists at Re. 1 per Bottle, or sent by Dr. Ratliwalla, Worli, Dadar, Bombay. Discount to the Trade.

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REMARKABLE PRESERVATION OF CONTENTS OF A

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Messrs. CHUBB, 128, Queen Victoria St., E.C.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to inform you that our CHUBB'S SAFE was the only one out of three Safes that I possessed which prevented my Books from being absolutely destroyed in the terrible fire of November 19th last. The outside of the SAFE had evidently been red hot, but nevertheless the CONTENTS were PRESERVED QUITE SUFFICIENTLY to be of service to me.

Yours truly, (Sd.) GEO. B. TAYLOR,

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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

MONDAY EVENING, DEC. 27.

THE London Stock Exchange and the markets on the other side having been closed for the last two business days, for the Chirstmas holidays, we have no advices through Reuter to notice since those under Friday evening's date, when Consols in London left off unchanged at 112¼ and Indian Sterling Loan, at 117. About a quarter of a million in Gold was withdrawn from the Bank of England. The price of Bar Silver advanced 3-16d., say to 26 3-4d. per oz. 3½ per cent. Rupee Securities were unaltered at £61 3-4d. per oz. The Exchange Banks' buying rate on India had remained at 1s. 3 7-32d. per rupee. French Rentes in Paris were unchanged, at 103¼ *ex coupon*. Paris Exchange on London was a centime lower at Rs. 25·23 1-2. The shipments of Specie to the East this week have consisted of £150,000 in Silver and £20,000 in Gold; and £18,000 in Silver to Shanghai.

Brown Rapeseed was quoted in London on Friday at 35 1-4s. per 416 lbs., sellers via Canal, April-May shipment to Havre, Antwerp, and Dunkirk. Tone of the market dull.

The Liverpool Cotton market closed steady on Friday evening; Surats dull; and Arrivals quiet with both spot and arrival prices all unchanged. The day's sales were 12,000 bales, including 100 Surats. The Imports were 25,000 bales. The Manchester market was steady. There are holidays in this market till to-morrow.

In New York on Friday the price of ready Mid. Uplands remained at 5 15-16 cents per lb.; but Futures were 5 points lower in both positions, at 5·82 cents for March, and 5·97 for June. The Receipts at the U. S. Ports were 55,000 bales. The price of Bar Silver was unchanged at 57 1-2 cents per oz.; demand Exchange on London having been 1-8 cent lower, at 4·84 1-8 dollars.

Locally, the Banks and markets generally have remained closed for the holidays since Thursday evening; but we hear of a little business in Cotton having been done to-day, Exporters having taken 600 bales of ready new Bengal and Oomra varieties; and the Mills 500 bales of the latter—all on the basis of previous rates, the market closing steady this evening.

The weather and crop reports wired from the districts this morning show no change in the position of the Cotton crop now being harvested or rapidly maturing in seasonable weather. Arrivals at the marts of the Oomrawuttee circle were still small; and the plants in the Broach and Dhollera circles were showing bolls, more or less forward in all the districts.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEWS.

LONDON, DEC. 24.

The Liverpool Cotton Market closed steady. Surats dull.

Good Bhownuggur..... 2 23-32.

The Manchester Market has been steady.

2½ per cent. Consols..... 112¼

3 per cent. Rentes..... 103 *ex.*

3½ per cent. Sterling Loan 117

3½ per cent. Rupee Paper 61 3-4

Bar Silver 26 3-4

The sum of about £250,000 has been withdrawn from the Bank of England.

Holiday until Tuesday.

STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

LIVERPOOL, DEC. 24.

The Clan Line steamer Bullionist, left here, this morning.

The Anchor Line steamer Hispania, left here for Bombay, this morning.

LONDON, DEC. 24.

The B. I. S. N. Company's steamer Mombassa, left here this afternoon.

SINGAPORE, DEC. 25.

The Austrian Lloyd's s. s. Trieste, from Kobe, sailed for Bombay this afternoon.

KARACHI, DEC. 27.

The Austrian Lloyd's s. s. Vindobona, from Bombay, arrived this morning.

The Florio Rubattino Company's steamer Letimbro, from Bombay, arrived at Hong Kong on the 27th instant.

The German East Africa Line steamer Setos, arrived at Zanzibar, from Bombay, on the 25th instant.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

THE Asiatic S N Co's s s Nurani, 2,870 tons, Captain J L Leftwich, cleared yesterday for Calcutta with a general cargo.

THE P and O Co's s s Coromandel, 2,383 tons, Captain R A Peters, arrived in harbour on Sunday from Calcutta with a general cargo.

THE s s Claverly, 1,837 tons, Captain F W Livingstone, sailed yesterday for Calicut, Beypore and Cochin, with the same bottom cargo.

THE P and O Co's s s Mazagon, 3,279 tons, Captain E G Andrews, arrived in harbour on Saturday from Calcutta 8th December with a cargo of 6,000 tons of coal.

THE s s Ilesfree, 373 tons, Nacoda, arrived in harbour on the 25th December from Maculla, with a general cargo and 122 deck passengers:—The vessel is consigned to Mr. Allana Munjee.

THE s s Leitrim, 2,811 tons, Captain K Mogiestone, arrived in harbour on Saturday last from Calcutta (15th instant) with a cargo of 3,700 tons of coal. The vessel is consigned to the Bombay Company.

THE s s Federation, 1,570 tons, Captain J Pratice, arrived in harbour on Saturday last from Calcutta (13 instant), with a cargo of 3,224 tons of coal. The vessel is consigned to Messrs Killick, Nixon, and Co.

THE s s Darius, 2,129 tons, Captain W Frith, cleared yesterday for Melbourne, via Calcutta, with a general cargo, and the following passengers, Mr Thomas Wheeler, Mr D Macpherson, Mr W Baxter, and Mr M Kiene.

THE B. I. S. N. Co's s.s. Chindwara, 1,502 tons, Captain W. H. Watkey's, arrived in harbour yesterday from Moulmein 27th November via Rangoon, Colombo, Tuticorin and Cochin, with a general cargo, and 5 deck passengers.

THE s s Coningsby, 2,158 tons, Captain J Smith, arrived in harbour on the 25th instant, from Batoum 1st December with a cargo of 1,20,433 cases of Kerosine oil. The vessel is consigned to Messrs A Montechoff and Co.

THE B I S N Co's s s Kerballa, 1,458 tons, Captain S Boon, arrived in harbour on Saturday last from Calcutta 23th November via coast ports, with a general cargo and the following passengers:—Master F Dolger, Mr and Mrs Vatz and four children and 20 deck,

THE B I S N Co's s s Bezwada, 3,270 tons, Captain M B Smith, sailed yesterday for Calcutta via coast ports with a general cargo, and the following passenger:—Mr E Carvithan, Mrs Good, Mr Allen, Mr Tulloch, Rev. Carniss Alexander; Mr and Mrs Dadabhoy Nasserwanjee and three children and 40 deck,

THE following is the List of passengers sailed yesterday per Austrian Lloyd's s.s Amphitrite Captain G. Costanzo from the Victoria Dock No. 8 at noon:—From Bombay to Penang.—Mrs. C. Zolla and infant, Revd. Wehninger and eight sisters, Miss E. Wehninger and Suliana. From Bombay to Singapore—Mr. A. C. Cerle, Mr. Ressel and Mr. Wullyrom. From Bombay to Shanghai.—Mr. A. Gritte and Mr. M. Schwarz. From Bombay to Kobe—Mr. Nasswetter.

THE B I S N Co's s s Dwarka, 759 tons, Captain J C Tice, arrived in harbour on Saturday from Karachi 23rd December with a general cargo and the following passengers—Mr and Mrs Hunter and 3 children. Mr Shadbold, Mr Greaves, Surgeon-Major Genl Churchill, Lieut Seed, Mr and Mrs Brice, Mr Elmore, Mr Hinks, Mr Fraser, Mr Chandoomul, Mr Jawanddas, Mr Chundri, Sultan Mahomed Khan, Mr Vishonda, Mr R Vishnoo, Mr D'Souza, and 44 deck. She will sail to-day for Karachi via Kuthiawar coast ports, with a general cargo, and Lieut-Col and Mrs Harvey, Conductor H D Kettle and 65 deck passengers.

ARRIVALS

Dec.	Vessel.	Commander.	From.
25	Ilesfee s	Nacoda	Maculla, Dec 16
	Coningsby s	Smith	Batoum, Dec 1.
	Dwarka s	Tice	Karachi, Dec 23.
	Kerbella s	Boon	Calcutta, Nov 26.
	Victoria, yacht	Lungham	London, Nov 20.
	Leitrim s	Mogiestone	Calcutta, Dec 15.
	Mazagon s	Andrews	Calcutta, Dec 8.
	Federation s	Prentice	Calcutta, Dec 13.
26	Carthage s	London	Aden, Dec 30.
	Coromandel s	Peters	Calcutta.
27	Chindwara s	Watkeys	Moulmein, Nov 27.

DEPARTURES.

Dec.	Vessel.	Commander.	Destination.
26	Dumra s	Russell	Karachi.
27	Amphitrite s	Costanzo	Kobe.
	Bezwada s	Smith	Calcutta, &c.
	Narani s	Leftwich	Calcutta.
	Darius s	Frith	Melbourne.

The following vessels obtained their port clearances yesterday:—

Steamer Claverley, Livingstone, for Calicut, &c.
" Dwarka, Tice, for Karachi.

The following vessels entered for loading yesterday:—

Steamer Kerbella, for Calcutta, &c.
" Gea, for Zanzibar, &c.
" Chindwara, for Calcutta, &c.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

[THE CHARGE FOR NOTIFYING A DOMESTIC OCCURRENCE IS TWO RUPEES. THE ANNOUNCEMENT MUST BE AUTHENTICATED.]

BOMBAY.

DEATH.

DE SILVA—December 27, at Lower Mahim, Dadur, after a lingering illness of over 5 months, Maria Quiteira Gracia Esperanza, the dearly beloved wife of Mr. Ignacio Domnath de Silva, and the only daughter of Mr. Saturino Duarte, formerly of Upper Girgaum, Bombay, aged 31 years. Funeral will take place to-day, Tuesday, at 4 p.m. Friends and relatives will kindly accept this intimation.

EUROPE.

MARRIAGES.

DAY—GORDON—December 8, at Saint Gabriel's, Warwick-square, S.W., Edward Addison Day, to Salvadora Selina, daughter of the late Lieutenant-General C. E. Park, Gordon, C.B., Colonel of the Gordon Highlanders.

TURNBULL—RAIKES—December 1, at St. Andrew's, Watford, Alexander Duncan Turnbull, younger son of the late George Turnbull, Memb. Inst. C. E., some years Chief Engineer East Indian Railway, and of Mrs. Turnbull, of Rose Hill, Abbots Langley, to Ethel Florence, younger daughter of General R. Napier Raikes, Bengal Staff Corps, of Stamford Lodge, Watford.

DEATHS.

BRUNESSON—December 8, at 76, Jermyn-street, the Rev. J. R. Brunesson, late Chaplain in H. M. Forces, India, aged 57.

FAGAN—December 2, at 7, Daroley-road, Nottlog Hill, Emily Rowe, wife of Major-General William Turton Fagan, Bengal Staff Corps.

GRAHAM—December 8, at 1, Union place, Barnstaple, Katharine Graham, daughter of the late Captain Charles Graham, H. E. I. C. S., aged 75.

HUNTER-BLAIR—December 3, at Balham, Emy Hunter-Blair, widow of John Hunter-Blair, Indian Civil Service, aged 63.

OTTLEY—December 1, at Templestowe, Torquay, the Rev. Warner Bockingham Ottley, late Madras Chaplain, aged 78.

The Bombay Gazette

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1897.

THE most noteworthy feature of the Administration Report for the Baluchistan Agency for 1896-97 is the light it throws upon the antecedents of the Chiefs who were suddenly arrested under the orders of the Governor-General's Agent towards the end of August last. The most important arrests were those of Ghaus Bakhsh Khan, the Chief of Sarawan, and of Mir Mehrullah Khan, his uncle. The Chief is described by Mr. Barnes as young and of feeble character and health, while his uncle is characterised as "able, unscrupulous and ambitious." In the state of semi-civilization which prevails in Baluchistan a weak ruler under such circumstances is certain to give way to the stronger will of his relative. Since the death of Sirdar Sir Assad Khan, K.C.I.E., Ghaus Bakhsh has reigned but not ruled; and the affairs of the tribe have been managed by Mehrulla Khan. After the deposition of the Khan of Khelat, and in a great measure in consequence of it, Sir Assad Khan Mahmud, who had favoured the deposition and the apointment of Khan to the vacant *gadi*, gained very largely in power and prestige. But he did not abuse this power as his brother has done. For the last two or three years all work with the Sirdars has been conducted by the Political Officers through Mehrulla Khan. In the time of Sir Robert Sandeman, the Sarawan Sirdar was merely *primus inter pares*, but as represented by Mehrulla Khan he has become a tyrannous over-lord, greatly hated by the other Sirdars. It so happens that Sirdar Allahyar Khan Rustomzai has had a feud with the Sarawan Sirdar for several generations, and for years past the Political Officers have found it a difficult matter to keep the peace between the two. Sir Assad Khan never pushed matters to extremes. But Mehrulla Khan has done all in his power to crush the Mir and to reduce him to the position of a mere Mukaddam of the Rustomzai section of the Raisani tribe. The Khans of Khelat have given their support to Mir Allahyar Khan and his predecessors. Encouraged by the help thus afforded them the Rustomzai Sirdars, though in nominal subordination to the Sarawan Chiefs, have consistently resisted to the utmost the attempts of the latter to lower their position. The feud arose long before British supremacy was established in Baluchistan, and lead to fights as constant and bitter between the Raisanis and the Rustomzais as those of the Scotch Highland clans in medieval times. The British authority has confined hostilities within passive limits, but has not brought about any real reconciliation. At one time the late Sirdar Sir Assad Khan was compelled to prohibit any Raisanis from visiting Kanak, the Rustomzai head-quarters, and the adherents of Allahyar Khan were similarly enjoined not to go to Mithri, the head-quarters of the Sarawan Sirdars. But since the death of his brother, Mir Mehrulla has systematically encroached on Kanak, and no Rustomzais who supported Allahyar Khan could obtain a fair hearing in the jirgahs or tribal councils.

Three years ago Mir Mehrulla persuaded the British officers to reverse an old decision about certain Rustomzai lands. In consequence passive animosities were revived and there was a recrudescence of the feud. Several charges were brought against Allahyar Khan by the Raisani Chief, and although the most serious of them was dismissed by the Magistrate at Quetta, the jirgah to which the question was unwisely referred found against Allahya Khan and fined him Rs. 1,500. He refused to pay, and knowing the great influence of his rich enemy over the jirgah he fled with the greater portion of his tribesmen, and two other Chiefs, Sirdars Imam Bakhsh and Ghulam Jan. He made his way to Kabul, where he was well received by the Amir, who offered him some extensive lands in Chakansar on the Helmand. In course of time Mr. Barnes induced the refugees—whose loyalty to the British power has been proved many times—to return to their territories, and many of their grievances were enquired into and redressed. The Agent to the Governor-General forbade the Karsani Chief and his family to interfere in Kanak, and the Rustomzais to visit Mithri. The Agency had every reason to protect Allahyar Khan against the vindictive hatred of Mehrulla Khan, seeing that while the latter has given constant trouble to the British Government, the former has again and again rendered invaluable assistance in supplying levy posts and escorts, and in other ways. Mir Mehrulla Khan was a disturbing factor in the jirgahs, and at one time it looked as though this peaceful method of arbitrament would have to be abandoned. This clearly evidences the high state of tension had been reached, for ordinarily speaking jirgahs between representatives of tribes are well conducted amongst the Pathans, and there is an entire absence of interruption and disorder. This accounts for the opinion expressed by a Pathan non-commissioned officer who participated in the Jubilee celebrations in London ten years ago, and who, when asked what he thought was the most interesting sight in London, replied—"Parliament; for it is the largest and noisiest jirgah I have ever seen." Mir Mehrulla Khan was regarded by all the Chiefs as having taken advantage of his position to aggrandise himself and his tribe at the expense of others. When Allahyar Khan returned from exile in December it was clear that almost all the Sirdars were in his favour. Their partisanship was almost as great an obstacle in the settlement of disputes as Mir Allahyar Khan's predominance had been, when he was in the zenith of his power. At last Mr. Barnes was compelled to inform the Sirdars that no case would be referred to the jirgah until they had agreed to bury their dissensions, at any rate for a time. In the end concord was re-established, and the various cases reserved for the jirgahs were settled with much less party spirit than before. In all 303 cases were settled by this tribunal. But as subsequent events have shown the harmony induced by the threat of the Agent to the Governor-General was short-lived. At the date of the report Mr. Barnes wrote "Unless a final settlement by authority is arrived at and adhered to a settlement, too, which will admit of the Rustomzais living on their lands in Kanak without molestation there is serious risk that Sirdar Allahyar Khan and his tribesmen will again leave the country, as the feud has become so embittered that the two Chiefs can hardly live peaceably together." He was apprehensive that Mehrulla's power, the ability with which it was exercised, and the arrogance it had bred would cause serious difficulties not only in regard to the Rustomzais but to the tribes whose Sirdars were theoretically the equal of this unscrupulous man. These apprehensions had their fulfilment long before the report was published. The sudden outburst of unrest and disorder along the North-West Frontier five or six months ago gave to Mehrulla Khan a favourable opportunity as he thought to increase his influence, and to use his power over his nephew and over other chiefs more despotically than before. He was the instigator of the impudent raid made by Jaffer Khan across the border, and had his arrest towards the end of August been much longer delayed, the whole of the Baluch plateau would have been thrown into a ferment of disturbance. It is to be hoped that he will never again be allowed to upset the good order which has since prevailed in Baluchistan.

The report explains the circumstances under which in the last two or three years there has been some emigration from Pishin to Afghan territory, and also in a less degree from Quetta, Thal Chotiali and Zhob. The immigrants have been well received by the Amir and have been given free grants of land or water. Afghanistan has therefore been to needy or debt-ridden Baluchis a cave of Adullam to which they could fly for a livelihood. The Amir's hospitality towards them is due to the fact that he is in need of Pathan colonists in the Hazara district of Uruzgan, and possesses large tracts of waste and escheated lands, of which he gives free grants on favourable terms to arrivals from British territory. As many of the Pishin people are very poor and have great difficulty in living on the produce of their lands, they readily avail themselves of the chance thus offered them. They are the more ready to leave their homes since the population has greatly increased while the country has been under British rule, and the land has become more and more minutely sub-divided. The exodus has not therefore resulted in land being thrown out of cultivation, and under these circumstances the Governor-General's Agent does not regard the movement with "anxiety or apprehension." A feature of the year's administration was the completion of the labours of both the Perso-Baluch and Baluch-Afghan Boundary Commission. In the case of the former Commission the boundary line covers a distance of nearly 300 miles, while that of the latter is 800 miles in extent. The relations between the British and the Afghan Commissioners were cordial throughout, a result mainly due to the tact and ability of Captain McMahon and the officers associated with him. The decisions of the Commission have, on the whole, been well respected. A few acts of aggression on the part of the men of the Afghan posts were committed, but the tribesmen on the British side have obeyed the orders of the district officers to refrain from acts of retaliation.

THE terms of reference to the Famine Commission over which Sir James Lyall is to preside, contained in the Government Resolution published the other day, will set at rest the doubts that have been expressed as to whether principles or details only are to be examined. The Governor-General-in-Council is convinced that the lines of policy laid down by the Famine Commission of 1878 have stood the severe test imposed by the late scarcity, and this view will receive the concurrence of all who have watched the efficiency of the organisation by which the grim spectre of Famine has been combatted. It is, therefore, not proposed that alterations should be made in the main lines prescribed as the basis of the administration of relief, and the Commissioners will only enquire into the detailed provisions of the local Codes of the respective Provinces. In the light of recent experiences Government are quite justified in the opinion that the operations of the last twelve months regarded with reference to the object of saving life at the minimum of cost to the taxpayer have been "conspicuously successful." But the Codes drawn up as a result of the conclusions of the Commission of 1878, and since revised, have not before been put to the test of practical experience. It is, therefore, only to be expected that in some details they should have been found defective, or at least should not have reached an attainable standard of workableness and efficiency. Methods which seem most efficient and at the same time most economical on paper do not always prove to be so in some of their details when put to the test. Even during the progress of the recent operations some alterations had to be made in Provincial Codes to procure greater flexibility. But changes of this kind cannot be made on any very careful basis while the battle is being waged; it is only after the fighting is done that reforms in details can be calmly discussed. The experience gained must be dealt with as a whole in order to secure results such as those spoken of by Lord George Hamilton when, in August last, he told the House of Commons, "I have little doubt that out of the experience of the present year such an improvement will be made in the already effective Famine Code as will make its administration in any future famine as great an improvement upon the work of this year as this year's work has been upon the administration of twenty years back." The question arises whether the officers who have themselves fought the battle against famine are not better qualified to embody the results of their local experience in amended codes than a Commission of men who, however capable, can only learn of the famine second-hand. This question receives a satisfactory answer in the Resolution of the Government of India, which gives a valid reason why the facts and inferences regarding the famine should be collated and dealt with by a specially constituted Commission composed of officers who can give to the subject close and undivided attention. The reason is that almost every Province will have something to learn from the experience of others. In cases where the cost of relief and the proportionate number relieved have been larger than elsewhere, enquiry can be made by the Commission into the causes of the excess, and whether an adherence to the lines followed in other Provinces might not in future reduce the cost without diminishing the efficacy of the measures adopted. It is clear that an enquiry of this sort can be better carried out by independent observers than by officers who have themselves been engaged in famine work, and might be inclined to particularly favour details most nearly approximating to those of their own particular provinces. With the question of the railway or irrigation works to be undertaken in the expenditure of the famine insurance fund in future years the Commissioners will apparently have nothing to do; that will be decided by the responsible authorities. Neither is it to be supposed that the Commissioners will sit in judgment on the work carried out by the local Governments; there is no need for that after the battle has been so well won. They will only be concerned with the past in so far as this may be a necessary preliminary to the work of advising as to the measures and methods which seem likely to prove most effective in future. Their recommendations will be duly considered by the Supreme and the Local Governments in due course, and such modifications as are deemed necessary will find their way into the Codes.

THE settlement of the Engineers' strike still remains unaccomplished. The Conference between Masters and Engineers has been abortive, the men declining by a large majority to accept the proposals of the employers' Federation, as submitted to them in a circular issued by their delegates. This result is unsatisfactory though not surprising. Arbitration is the proper method of settlement, and while it is impossible to sympathise with the men in the reckless determination to remain out, which is proving so detrimental to British commercial interests, it is to be regretted that the masters have so resolutely set their faces against submitting the dispute to an impartial tribunal possessing the confidence of both sides. If their case is so complete and overwhelming as they declare, surely a competent arbitrator would discover this. The proposals of the masters that have now been rejected on submission to the vote of the strikers through the country, were objected to on the ground that they involved a sacrifice of the fundamental principles of trade unionism. "One idea pervades the whole of them, namely, that of individual bargaining between employer and workman," wrote the delegates in their official communication to the whole body of strikers. The proposal in relation to future disputes was that deputations of workmen should be received by employers or their representatives for the discussion of any question that might arise; but only the local associations of employers would negotiate with trade union officials. Failing a local settlement of any question, it should be referred to the executive board of the Employers' Federation and the central authority of the trade union, and pending its being dealt with there should be no stoppage of work, either of a partial or general character. The counter proposal of the men was that at such discussions with masters they might be represented by others. But the masters are so averse to the discussion of their relations with their workmen with agitators and outsiders from a distance that they refused to accede to this amendment. There was similar failure to come to an agreement in regard to the hours of labour. The men demanded an eight hours, day; the employers declined to comply chiefly on the ground that in view of the keen and increasing foreign competition the trade of Great Britian would not bear any increase in the cost of production. This very vital element in the situation appears to be utterly disregarded by the men, who in now definitly refusing to come to terms are giving a further stimulus to the development of the engineering industries on the Continent and in America. The

TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

THE SITUATION IN THE FAR EAST.

DEPARTURE OF THE BRITISH SQUADRON.

LANDING OF A BRITISH FORCE.

LONDON, Dec. 27.

Telegrams received here from Shanghai mention rumours of the departure of Vice-Admiral Buller with the British Squadron to Talienwan, above Port Arthur, and that a British force has been landed at Chemulpo, on the Corean coast, for the purpose of reinstating Mr. Brown, the British Controller of the Customs.

THE EGYPTIANS AT KASSALA.

CAPTURE OF EL FASHER.

CAIRO, Dec. 24, Evening.

A despatch received from Abyssinia states that the Egyptian levies at Kassala have surprised and captured the Dervish post at El Fasher.

The Dervishes lost heavily, including two Emirs and their Frontier officer.

ACTIVITY OF THE EGYPTIAN LEVIES AT KASSALA.

CAIRO, Dec. 27.

Advices from Kassala state that the Egyptian levies are closely investing the Dervishes at As-Ubri.

The garrison has refused quarter offered by Colonel Parsons.

JAPAN AND THE POWERS.

TOKIO, Dec. 25.

The Japanese Diet was opened to-day.

The Mikado in his speech said that the relations between Japan and all the Powers were friendly, but made no reference whatever to the present political situation.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS IN JAPAN.

TOKIO, Dec. 27.

The Prime-Minister and the Minister of Marine have resigned.

It is probable that the Marquess Ito will be the new Premier.

DISSOLUTION OF THE JAPANESE DIET.

TOKIO, Dec. 28.

The Diet has been dissolved owing to a strong majority against the Government.

Changes in the Cabinet are expected.

RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND JAPAN.

LONDON, Dec. 25.

Various rumours are current here relating to a *rapprochement* between Great Britain and Japan in view of the recent events in the Far East.

THE CONFERENCE BETWEEN MASTERS AND ENGINEERS—A FIASCO.

The adjourned meeting of the Masters and Engineers for the purpose of taking a ballot of the men has resulted by the Engineers largely voting against the Masters' latest proposals.

A DRASTIC ATTACK ON THE FORWARD POLICY.

LONDON, Dec. 25.

A drastic article appears in the "Asiatic Quarterly Review" regarding the Forward Policy.

It severely censures the advocates of that school, and says that a grotesquely disproportionate force is assembled at present on the North-West Frontier of India for the purpose of merely exacting terms from the tribes which underthe old Punjaub system could have been attained by only a fiftieth part of the trouble and expense.

THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER CONTROVERSY.

OPINION OF SIR CHARLES GOUGH.

General Sir Charles Gough in a letter to the *Times* dwells upon the uselessness of Chitral and Malakhand as well as the frontier posts on the Samana, Kuram, and Waziristan for the safety of India, and declares that a true forward movement consists in maintaining an efficient mobile army ready to move wherever required and also keeping the Khyber Pass open.

THE AFRICANDERS AND THE IMPERIAL DEFENCE PROGRAMME.

CAPE TOWN, Dec. 25.

The Cape branch of the Africander Bond has unanimously adopted Mr. Hofmeyer's resolution that Cape Colony should contribute to the cost of laying and maintaining all British deep-sea cable between England and the Cape, *via* St. Helena and the Ascension Island, instead of contributing for a battleship in connection with the Imperial Defence Programme.

EVACUATION OF KASSALA BY THE ITALIANS.

CAIRO, Dec. 26.

Kassala has been handed over by the Italians to Colonel Parsons with 450 native regulars and 150 irregulars.

The Italians afterwards started for Keren.

FIRE IN CHICAGO.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.

A gigantic building in Chicago, known as the Coliseum, has been destroyed by fire while an exhibition of manufactures was being held there.

Nine persons perished and forty were injured.

A SAD FAMILY CATASTROPHE IN LONDON.

LONDON, Dec. 27.

A fire broke out yesterday in a cottage at Bethnal Green occupied by three families.

A woman and her nine children have been burnt to death.

PETROLEUM AND CUSTOMS DUTIES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CALCUTTA, Dec. 25.

Petroleum imported for fuel with flashing point at least two hundred degrees fahrenheit is exempted from Customs Duty in excess of five per cent.

THE P. W. D. REORGANISATION.

The "Gazette" contains the official announcement of the reorganisation of the P. W. D. Secretariat, particulars of which have already appeared.

THE THEFT OF H. E. THE GOVERNOR'S DRESSING CASE.

RECOVERY OF SOME OF THE PROPERTY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.)

POONA, Dec. 27.

In May last, whilst Lord Sandhurst was travelling from Bombay to Mahableshwar, the dressing case belonging to his Excellency was removed from the saloon carriage somewhere near Nira Road station on the Southern Mahratha Railway. The police for some time were unable to discover the thief, but about three months ago got certain information and arrested a man, named Satwa, who is described as a professional railway thief. He was to leave for Bombay to dispose of the articles which were with him. Amongst them were a gold cigarette case, gold sleeve links, a silver match box, several bottles with silver tops and a few other articles. The man's accomplice is still at large. The police expect to capture him shortly, as he has with him the dressing case and the remainder property. The thief meantime has been remanded for a week in order to allow of the property being identified by someone from the Governor's Staff. He will be placed before Mr. Bonus, the Collector, at Baramate.

DISTURBANCE AT SHOLAPUR.

DESPATCH OF SOWARS.

Twelve Sowars, belonging to the Mounted Poona Police, have been despatched to Sholapur this afternoon. They are required on special duty there. It is stated that an outbreak of dacoity or some other form of lawlessness has occurred.

THE NATU BROTHERS.

The moveable property of the two Natu Brothers has been released from attachment from yesterday.

THE DURHAM L. I.

The move of the 2nd Durham Light Infantry, which has been under orders to proceed to Bombay, Ahmedabad, and Deesa, has been cancelled.

THE PESTILENCE IN POONA.

Plague is now decreasing in Poona City for the last four days, the returns comparing with those of the last week being better. On Saturday there were 20 cases and 19 deaths in the city, and on Sunday 18 cases and 27 deaths.

To-day's returns show 18 cases and 27 deaths in the district.

In the General Plague Hospital 10 were admitted and 16 died, leaving 331; in the Mahomedan Hospital one was admitted, making the number of those under treatment 57; in the Hindu 2 were admitted, 7 discharged cured, one died, and 48 remain; in the Jew 2 were discharged cured, and 3 remain; and in the Guzerati one died, leaving 9 under treatment.

THE PROPOSED RAILWAY TO INDIA.

HYDERABAD MAHOMEDAN APPROVAL.

(FROM CORRESPONDENTS.)

HYDERABAD, Dec. 24.

A representative meeting of the nobility and gentry of Hyderabad was held here, to-day, at the residence of the Home Secretary, Mr. Aziz Mirza, to consider the scheme of the railway line to India, when the following noblemen and gentlemen were present:—Nawab Ruknul Mulk, Khan Dauran Khan Bahadur, Nawab Mahomed Muaziz Yar Dowlah, the Attalik of the heir-apparent to the throne and master of ceremonies, Nawab Ikbal Yar-jung Bahadur, the Inam Commissioner, Nawab Sikandar Nawaz Jung Bahadur, Divisional Judge, Nawab Feroz Yar Jung Bahadur, Nawab Mahomd Anwar Khan of Karnol, Nawab Zenalabdin Khan, Mahomed Aziz Mirza, Home Secretary, Maulwi Mahomed Abdul Hassam, Chief City Magistrate, Mirmehdi Khan Saheb, Jagirdar and member of the Legislative Council; Syed Ahmad Sahib, Head Assistant Accountant-General; Syed Shah Abdul Kadri Sahib, Assistant Nazim Tamirat of his Highness' Palaces, Mir Sarfraz Akbar-Ali Khan Sahib, Mir Dawarali Khan Saheb, Honorary Magistrate, Maulwi Sayyad Murtuza Saheb, Kadri Maulwi Gulsam Kadar Girami, Poet Laureate of his Highness, Maulwi Gulsam Mahomed Saheb, Superintendent of the Cabinet Council, Niamatulla Khan Saheb, Superintendent of his Highness' Peshi Secretary's Office, Tajammul Husain Khan, Sayed Mahomed, Sayed Madani, and many others. On the motion of Mr. Aziz Mirza, seconded by Mr. Mehdi Khan Saheb, Nawab Ruknul Mulk was voted to the chair. After this Mr. Badruddin Abdulla Kur, of Bombay, explained the details of the railway scheme to the audience. Mr. Kur said that a pioneer company had been formed in England to completely survey the route for a railway line between Kurrachee and Port Said. The scheme was of colossal dimensions, but if successfully carried out it would certainly confer a great benefit not only on tourists and European travellers by shortening the route, but would also solve the many intricate sanitary difficulties of the Mahomedan pilgrim traffic to the holy places. Such a line would also minimise the difficulties of travel between India and such important places as Baghdad, Kerbella, Najif, and Jerusalem. It will remove the dangers and inconveniences attendant on a sea voyage and be the means of a revival of commerce and rapid inter-communication throughout Southern Asia. The scheme was worthy of the enterprizing spirit and cosmopolitan predilections of the Anglo-Saxon race. Great Britain alone with its world-wide empire, including India, and with its immense wealth, was in a position to embark on it and carry it through successfully. Such a scheme deserved the support of all Indian Mahomedans. Nawab Ikbal Yarjung Bahadur moved the following proposition, which was seconded by Nawab Muaziz Yar Daula Bahadur, and carried unanimously that "this meeting most cordially supports the scheme of the railway line to India between Kurachee and Port Said, and declares its opinion that it will be a pioneer of civilization and commercial enterprise in Southern Asia, and that it will provide great facilities and be profitable to the Mahomedan pilgrims going to the holy places of Mecca and other holy shrines situated on the track of the said railway line, and that Mr. Kur be authorised to forward this resolution to the Secretary of State for India in Council." After the usual thanks to the chairman, the meeting terminated.

THE NEW SHERIFF OF BOMBAY.

CALCUTTA, Dec. 25.

A special meeting of the Calcutta Borah community was held on the premises of Seth Mohamadbhoy Alibhoy, at 4 p.m., on the 25th instant, to thank the Bombay Government for appointing Seth Adamji Peerbhoy Sheriff of Bombay and congratulate Seth Adamji Peerbhoy. Shaikh Sultanali was voted to the chair. On opening the meeting several speeches were made by different members explaining the various public and private charitable works done by seth Adamji Peerbhoy. Afterwards the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—"That the Government of Bombay be thanked for their selection of our leader, Seth Adamji Peerbhoy, as Sheriff of Bombay; (2) That a congratulatory telegram be sent to Seth Adamji Peerbhoy on his appointment as Sheriff of Bombay." All the members present in the meeting were entertained in honour of Seth Adamji Peerbhoy by Seth Mohamadbhoy Alibhoy. The meeting was dissolved after the recital of a poem specially prepared, three cheers for the long life of our beloved Queen-Empress, the distribution of pan and attar, and a vote of thanks to the chair.

An important judgment under the Finance Act was delivered in the Court of Appeal on Dec. 3. Earl Cowley on succeeding to the title and estates claimed to deduct from the amount on which duty was chargeable a mortgage debt raised by his predecessor and the capital value of certain annuities. The Court now laid it down that the Finance Act made liable to duty the value of the estate which passed and not the value it might be to the individual successor. They therefore found against Earl Cowley.

THE TIRAH EXPEDITION.

THE SAMANA AND KURRAM DESPATCHES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.)

CALCUTTA, Dec. 25.

General Yeatman-Biggs' Samana and Kurram despatches are published in the "Gazette of India" with highly eulogistic prefaces in which the Viceroy and Commander-in-Chief express their admiration for the heroic defence of Gulistan by the 36th Sikhs under Major Des Voux and of Saragari by a party of the same regiment under Havildar Ishar Singh, who died fighting to the last. The despatch adds little to what was contained in the official account published at the time. But the following names of British officers are mentioned in addition to those noticed in General Yeatman Biggs' first communication:—Second-Lieutenant Pratt, Surgeon Captain Prall, Majors Bewicke, Copley and McSwiney, Captains Sendamore and Wake, the Maharajah of Cooch Behar, Brigade Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Murphy, Captains Murray and Rogers, Colonel Lawrence, Lieutenant-Colonels Travers, Pulley, Haughton and Sturt, Major Doran, Captains Parker and Robinson, Lieut. Elsmie and West, and Mr. D. Donald.

GENERAL LOCKHART AT ALI MUSJID.

General Lockhart with the first Division has joined General Hammond at Ali Masjid, and proceeds with the second Brigade to China Village through the Chara Pass. Ali Masjid Fort has not been greatly damaged.

THE PESHAWAR COLUMN.

LALACHINA TOWERS DESTROYED.

Dec. 26.

The Peshawar Column blew up the towers of Lalachina on the 24th. A large quantity of forage and firewood was brought into camp at Ali Musjid. The enemy offered no resistance. The First Division marched in the same day, the First Brigade encamping near Lalachina and the Second Brigade in the bed of the Peshawar river half a mile from Ali Musjid, parties meanwhile being sent out to improve the roads towards Chara and Alachi passes. Next day the First Division marched for the Bazaar Valley, the First Brigade via Alachi Pass, and the SecondBrigade via Chora Pass. The advance of the First Brigade on the right was flanked with four guns, and a wing of the Oxfords, a wing of the Second Gurkhas,and the 45th Sikhs. The Sikhs held the Aspoghar heights and General Lockhart pushed on with the Sappers at Alachi village and blew up its towers. A few shots were fired by small bodies of the enemy at the Sikhs, whose casualties, however, are believed, be only three men wounded, also at the Sappers in a village, but no casualties occurred. The transport of the First Brigade was much delayed owing to one small difficult point on the road, and it is doubtful whether it would reach camp at Karman last night. This was the only difficult place found, the remainder of the road over the Alachi being good single file track requiring very little improvement to make it a good camel road.

OPERATIONS RESTRICTED.

The operations on the frontier are being now more circumscribed, the military authorities have ordered H Battery R. H. A. and two squadrons of the 11th Hussars at Peshawar, also two Squadrons of the latter regiment at Rawalpindi and wing of Royal Scots Fusiliers with Tirah force, all to return to Sialkot. At the same time the 4th Dragoon Guards are ordered from Peshawar to Rawalpindi.

GENERAL LOCKHART AT LALA CHINA.

CALCUTTA, Dec. 27.

General Lockhart was on Saturday eight miles beyond Lala China destroying village defences unopposed. There was a little sniping at night and a Sussex Regiment Private was wounded.

MOVEMENTS OF THE BRIGADES.

ALLAHABAD, Dec. 27.

A telegram to the *Pioneer*, dated Ali Masjid, 24th December, states:—General Symons' Division marched from Jamrud to-day, and encamped at a point convenient for the two Brigades to go to their respective ways. To-morrow, the 2nd Brigade will enter the Bazar Valley by the Chura Kandao Pass, and the 1st Brigade by Alacha Pass. The latter Brigade will be flanked on the right by troops from General Hammond's Column. Parties had been out to-day from the Peshawar Column, one to crown the heights this side of Fort Maude for the in-coming division, and one to open out a road by which the division will march to-morrow to blow up the Lacha China Village,the inhabitants of which were implicated in the late attacks on the forts, and one to reconnoitre the road by which flanking parties will move.

25th December.—The 1st and 2nd Brigades commenced to march into Bazar Valley this morning. The 2nd Brigade proceeded by Chura Kandao route, and the 1st Brigade by the Alacha route. The latter was flanked on the right by troops from the Peshawar Column. A few men were seen on the extreme ridges, and were fired on and driven off by the 45th Sikhs. A few shots were fired at our Sappers and Miners while engaged blowing up the village of Alacha on the pass, but beyond this no opposition was offered. Owing to the difficult point in the road for the animals, the transport of the 1st Brigade was seriously blocked about three miles from camp. There was no prospect of its getting into camp before night fall. A man of the Sussex Regiment was shot early this morning by prowlers, apparently with slugs. He was hit in three places.

Ali Masjid, 25th December.—The 1st Division marched here from Jamrud yesterday, and is encamped by the Brigades in the valley below Ali Masjid Fort. Sir W. Lockhart, escorted by two Squadrons, 4th Dragoon Guards, rode out from Peshawar, and joined the column. Numbers of officers visited the historic part now in a heap of ruins. The Afridis had done all the damage they could to it. All woodwork that had not been burnt had been torn off the walls. The views from the fort up and down the valley are very fine, fringed as it is on all sides by grand hills of solid bare rocks. This morning, about 4 a.m., three shots were fired into camp from the north side. A Lance-Corporal in the Sussex Regiment was severely wounded whilst lying in his shelter. One bullet hit him in the back and another in the thigh, making the Christmas day unlucky for him. To-day, the 1st Brigade marches a few miles west to the Karmana, and the 2nd Brigade south-west over the Chura Pass into Bazaar Valley. Sir William Lockhart accompanies the 2nd Brigade. The two Brigades join again on the 27th at China, another village in the Upper Bazaar Valley.

THE MARCH DOWN THE BARA VALLEY.

FROM SARAGHERI TO SHERIKHAN.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

SWAI KOT, Dec. 21.

I am afraid that a couple of days, leave from here to Peshawar has prevented me from continuing my letter attempting to describe our march down the Bara Valley. On the night of the eleventh the whole of the fourth Brigade and the majority of the third Brigade arrived at Saragheri. The rear-guard of the third Brigade, hampered by the tail end of the baggage floundering over the swampy rice fields, and also by their wounded, made up their minds to spend the night in some houses about two miles from camp. First of all the enemy had to be dislodged and driven out of their houses, and then the three hundred soldiers and sepoys had to crowd in as best they could, and try and make their wounded as comfortable as possible. There were twenty-one wounded, amongst whom was Captain Norie, of the Second Gurkhas, who was hit in the arm and has since had to have his arm amputated at the shoulder. They all had a wretched time; it was raining steadily all night and had been raining all day—everyone was wet through, hungry, and tired. It had been one long rear guard action from two miles beyond Sandana to their position about two miles from Saragheri. They had fought one continuous battle for about eleven miles. Keeping to the heights as much as possible they had little water and could not leave their houses at night to get water from the river bed, as the enemy had surrounded them. So the wounded men were given the water that remained in the water bottles, the other poor fellows being without any and most of them without food. All preparations were made to guard against the enemy rushing the houses, and beyond a few sharpshooters firing at intervals they had a peaceful night. At daybreak the enemy's skirmishers were travelling over the hills, and had obtained the ranges of all the exits of the houses to a nicety. As soon as a man showed himself in any of the doorways he became

A TARGET FOR THE ENEMY'S MARKSMEN,

and shots passed uncommonly close to if they did not hit the man aimed at. One of the enemy's volleys wounded five out of six men who were manning a low wall. Three of these were Gordon Highlanders one was a Gurkha, one a man in the Dorset Regiment. They were shot by reverse fire from a hill that our men had either not noticed or had thought it held or commanded by one of the Camp pickets. Only one out of the six men at the wall escaped unhurt. General Kempster with a couple of regiments and a Mountain Battery proceeded out to bring the rear guard in, and under cover of the Battery's fire and steady volleys from our relieving infantry the retirement was carried out successfully,

WITHOUT ANY FURTHER HEAVY LOSSES.

Our march was postponed for that day, and we were glad to have a chance of drying our saturated kit in the sun, which had driven away the low-lying clouds at an early hour, unfolding to us one of the most beautiful scenes I have ever seen: Snow capped hills, and wooded slopes, spurs of every shape each with a different colouring. But I will not try and describe it, it takes a very able pen to depict scenery so clearly that it presents a vivid picture to the reader, and I am sure my efforts would be futile in that respect, so I will only repeat that it equalled any scenery we have met in the Afridi country, which is saying a great deal for it. We all welcomed a fairly quiet day in camp. Next morning, the 13th, the order of march was changed, and the 4th Brigade followed the third. From early dawn the enemy began their harassing tactics of firing into camp from long ranges, and did a certain amount of damage to animals and hit a few followers. Four roads had been made out of camp down to the river bed, and after the third Brigade had left camp all the baggage of the Division began streaming down to the river bed. Half-a-dozen of the enemy's marksmen in an inaccessible place had the range of one of these roads exactly, and mule after mule was shot down, each as it was shot delaying the traffic considerably. Eventually their shooting was so accurate that this exit was closed and the other roads only used. Soon afterwards another road came under their fire with the same result, and our thousands of mules were compelled to find their way out of camp by two narrow roads which only allowed progress in single file. Thus delayed, the outlying pickets were not withdrawn till after noon, having been under fire since daybreak. Screened by the fire of the rear-guard they retired from their positions and joined the main body, which consisted of the whole of the fighting strength of the 4th Brigade. The third Brigade did not meet any opposition in its advance, and arrived at the place where the road left the river bed before the rear-guard of the fourth Brigade had left the camping ground. The enemy seemed to collect fresh reinforcements every minute, and

OUR RETIREMENT WAS HARASSED

by many thousands of active agile tribesmen swarming up the hills above the river bed, firing down at our rear and flanking guards and also at the main body. In a short time General Westmacott had added a couple of regiments, the K. O. S. Borderers and the 36th Sikhs, to help the 3rd Gurkhas in carrying out the difficult duties of the rear-guard action. Owing to the number of wounded the retirement was greatly delayed. In one or two places the positions taken up had to be held for half-an-hour to allow the wounded to be carried forward and well away from the fighting line. The enemy showed a bolder front during this day's fighting than they had before. In their attempts to cut off small parties and obtain their rifles, they exposed themselves a great deal more than is their custom, and made several splendid charges. They were heavily punished both by the guns and the infantry fire, but in spite of their heavy losses pressed on with

THE GREATEST COURAGE AND DETERMINATION,

yelling and shouting like so many fiends let loose from the lower regions. Pathans tell me their language was awful, the Sikhs and Gurkhas receiving more abusive epithets than the British soldiers. The way in which they tried to surround the small flanking parties of British troops was very noticeable. They evidently hoped that some party might be cut off, and the Lee-Metfords of the soldiers fall into their hands. But the retirement was planned and carried out with the greatest skill. General Westmacott himself was almost in the firing line all the day, and all movements were carried out with the greatest steadiness. It is true our losses were heavy—the nature of the country which we fought over made these losses unavoidable. The enemy too lost heavily, more so than we did, hopes of plunder and loot in the shape of rifles urging them on to take great risks. Several times they rushed across the river bed in numbers, and on these occasions the guns inflicted heavy losses on them. Captain Bateman Champain was wounded early in the day, shot through the side. Luckily the wound is slight, but had it been an inch or two to one side would have been fatal. Lieutenant West, of the same regiment, was killed at the end of the day's fighting, as he was rallying his men before taking them into camp. He had distinguished himself greatly during the whole of the expedition. Time after time had he earned the praise of his superior officers, and the respect and admiration of all his men by the gallant deeds he had performed. The whole Brigade knew poor West, and his loss is very deeply felt. It was especially hard lines to have gone through the whole campaign, to have taken part in the severest fighting that has taken place and to be killed by

ONE OF THE LAST SHOTS FIRED

in the last march before coming in contact with General Hammond's Brigade. Our camping ground that night was on a barren tract of land, intersected with a network of ravines and dry nullahs. We had left the river bed and were three miles away from water—not a drop was there anywhere. Most of us had finished our supply while climbing over the hills and scrambling down nullahs. All the pakkal mules were filled before leaving the river bed, but they did not go very far towards quenching one's thirst, as only a very little could be spared to each man. When the time arrived for the evening meal there was little water left; and most of us being too thirsty to eat, went to bed hungry and without the prospect of getting any water to drink till we reached the river bed near General Hammond's Camp about midday the next day. This is the first time since the night of the fight at Dargai that our troops have suffered from want of water, and I think it is the hardest trial that we have yet undergone. Luckily the climate being cold, water was not so much needed as it otherwise would have been, but even in this climate climbing craggy difficult hills as quickly as one can is very thirsty work. I have never experienced how painful it is to be really thirsty before, and hope I never shall again. Our losses on the 13th amounted to 72, not counting followers, who, I am sorry to say also, lost heavily, several dhoolie and stretcher bearers being killed and wounded. Many mules too were hit in the river bed, and also some of their drivers. One Colour-Sergeant of the Royal Scots and three men are missing. It is reported that the Colour-Sergeant is still alive, friendlies having confirmed this rumour, and they have seen him alive. It appears that the Colour-Sergeant and his little party were cut off and surrounded while retiring over some very difficult ground, and notwithstanding all the difficulties and opposition they encountered only the Colour-Sergeant and three men fell into the hands of the enemy. The latest rumour that has found its way into camp is that a letter has been received in the vernacular at the bottom of which the Colour-Sergeant was made to write his name. He also asked that his friends might be informed of his predicament. It is feared that the Afridis have killed the three privates.

ENGLISH POLITICAL AND SOCIAL LETTER.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Dec. 10.

THE VICEROYALTY OF INDIA.

Although in comparatively recent times an ex-Secretary of State for India has been appointed to the Viceroyalty of an Eastern Empire, no actual Indian Minister has ever been transferred from London to Calcutta. For that, if for no other reason, I am not inclined to attach a great deal of importance to the renewed talk about Lord George Hamilton being a possible successor of the Earl of Elgin. At the same time Conservative Governments do occasionally depart from precedent, and the *Birmingham Post*, which now mentions Lord G. Hamilton as the coming Viceroy, has occasionally been favoured with important political news in advance of its contemporaries. Yesterday, Mr. Chamberlain's organ, as the *Birmingham Post* is often styled, gave special prominence to a communication on the subject of proposed Cabinet changes from its London correspondent. We are told that Lord Elgin is desirous of retiring "with the New Year," and that if Lord G. Hamilton goes out to Calcutta, his place at the India Office may be taken by the Marquis of Lansdowne. In support of such an arrangement, it is pointed out, that Lord G. Hamilton's experience both as Under-Secretary for India years ago and as Secretary of State to-day "would enable him to carry out with not only knowledge, but full sympathy, the frontier policy of the present administration." The departure of Lord Lansdowne from the War Office would permit of the selection of a "man specially skilled in business concerns"—*videlicet* Mr. Chamberlain—to pilot through the House of Commons the great scheme of army reform and reorganisation now under the consideration of the Cabinet. "Such a proposal, it is obvious from the constitutional point, must originate in the House of Commons; and every practised Parliamentarian would agree that its explanation in, and passage through, the Chamber would be facilitated by it being in the hands there of the Secretary of State for War." The *Birmingham Post* does not go to the length of saying that all this has actually been decided; and it admits that if the rumours now current were "put as definite statements of fact" they could be officially denied; but it significantly adds that they are at once too precise and too prevalent to be ignored. There are some people afflicted with the belief that Mr. Chamberlain is never happy unless he is intriguing against his colleagues, to quote the words said to have been applied to him by the late Lord Rosmead, and they of course see in this Birmingham communique evidence of some deep design on the part of their pet aversion to add to his own glory. They argue that as things at the Colonial Office have not taken quite the turn Mr. Chamberlain hoped, he wishes to secure at the War Office the opportunities that he thinks may not come to him in his present position. This theory is not wanting in ingenuity, but it is slightly deficient like some other attacks on Mr. Chamberlain in charity. I have said that there is no precedent for sending out to India an actual Secretary of State, and I cannot recall the case of an ex-Viceroy becoming Secretary of State. If the Birmingham suggestion were acted upon some people would consider it as not altogether a desirable family arrangement, Lord George Hamilton, as everyone knows, being the brother of Lord Lansdowne's wife.

THE FORWARD POLICY AND ITS ASSAILANTS.

Mr. George Curzon, M. P., has been spending the week with his constituents in the Southport division of Lancashire, and on Monday he talked to them at length on the frontier question, which continues to be discussed here with so much heat and partisanship. His speech is by far the longest that has be en delivered on the subject. The *Times*, which is not usually so indulgent to Under Secretaries, devotes nearly four columns to reporting Mr. Curzon's defence of the Government policy with regard to the frontier tribes and prints his remarks in the first person; but neither on Tuesday nor since has it referred to them in its leading articles. Not to be noticed editorially when you are making what you consider *the* reply to all the critics of your Government is a bore, but even the smartest of smart Under-Secretaries cannot have everything he desires. Mr. Curzon's speech was clever as a party deliverance, but why does he not try to get rid of his superior and patronising manner? Mr. John Morley, speaking at Bristol, yesterday, said:—"He is very angry with me and Mr. Asquith and others. Mr. Curzon is a man of great capacity and great promise. He is, perhaps, what wine merchants say of some vintages—he is rather slow in maturing." That exactly hits off Mr. Curzon, and many of his own political friends are rather chuckling over the dressing he received from Mr. Morley. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach in a recent address defending the House of Lords described the hereditary principle as a fine thing in itself. Mr. Morley observed last night:—"Mr. Curzon, I must tell you, is one of the hereditary people; and when the Chancellor of the Exchequer wants to produce a specimen of the kind of fine manners, courtesy, generosity, and Christian charity which thinketh no evil, I make him a present of Mr. Curzon." Mr. Morley added: "I am always for returning good for evil; and I will venture to offer to Mr. Curzon two rules which I believe will greatly refine his style of controversy; and will improve the chance of his political future. The first rule is this—You should never say anything if you do not expect anybody to believe it; and the second rule is—You should never say anything if you do not believe it yourself." Mr. Morley thinks it is a departure from these rules to describe your opponents as "calumnious" and "malicious;" to say that their statements are inventions for party purposes; that our military difficulties are snatched at as a handle by a political party; and that men who have been Ministers of the Crown and will be such again if they live are deliberately damaging the British administration in India. Mr. Curzon was on safer ground when he argued that both Liberal and Conservative Governments are so far as frontier policy goes tarred with the same brush. Indeed, he asserted that the majority of forward moves in India have been made by Liberal administrations. "Would you believe it," he asked, "it was a Liberal Government that in 1885 first sent a British mission to Chitral? It was a Liberal Government, of which Mr. Asquith was himself a member, that in 1893 sanctioned a British officer and escort being stationed in Chitral. It was a Liberal Secretary of State and a colleague of Mr. Asquith, Lord Kimberly, who wrote in September, 1893, that "it is a matter of importance to us to be able to control the external affairs of Chitral." The true physical and political boundary of India is, he pointed out, the main range of the Hindu-Kush, and that is why the Liberal Government originally took us to Chitral. "Chitral is upon this side of the frontier, and the fort of Chitral is about 40 miles from the crest of the Hindu-Kush. The most remarkable feature about the situation is that the great range, extending for hundreds of miles, is only capable of being crossed by an armed force at two points. By both of them easy access is gained to the Chitral fort, and thence down the Chitral river for about 200 miles into British India itself." It is its position, which may be compared to the apex or point of the capital letter V, that in Mr. Curzon's opinion constitutes the extreme strategical importance of Chitral." We have heard a great many explanations of the tribal risings. Mr. Curzon gives us a bran-new one; at any rate, I do not remember to have heard of it on this side though it may not be new to you in India. Mr. Curzon attributes all or nearly all the trouble to the late Government sending Sir Mortimer Durand to Kabul. "If you ask anyone who knows anything about those frontier troops and the present outbreak, he will tell you that it is the suspicions excited by the agreement and the consciousness that they have been finally included within the British sphere that have been in the main responsible for the outbreak among the tribes I have just mentioned." Mr. Curzon is very indignant with Opposition speakers for saying "Oh, it is not Lord Elgin who is too blame; it is the Cabinet who are solely responsible." Mr. Curzon has never heard a more astounding doctrine. "The Viceroy, the great pro-Consul, the Ambassador, is to be at liberty to put forward any proposal, even one which involves a gross breach of honour, and is to be acquitted of all responsibility and all blame; the blame is not to rest on the man who makes the suggestion, but exclusively on the Government that adopts it. I altogether repudiate this new canon of ethics, and I am sure it would be repudiated by the Viceroy and any Government official or servant of the Crown." While Mr. Curzon was thus holding forth, Mr. Asquith in Glasgow was disavowing any intention of impugning the personal honour of the Cabinet or their agents and suggesting that "these irrelevant personal issues" should now cease. He complained that they are being used to divert the minds of the country from the large questions of policy. His complaint is not without justification; but these side issues are chiefly due to his own unskilfulness and that of Sir Henry Fowler, who has not yet produced the originals of the private telegrams that he quite irregularly made so much of in his recent speech at Wolverhampton.

THE CONDITION OF THE ARMY.

Although it would be too much to say that the considerable amount of public attention which, thanks very largely to Mr. Arnold-Foster, M.P., is now being manifested in the condition of our military defences approaches to the dimensions of a scare the country is gradually being aroused to the gravity of the position. Sir Arthur Haliburton, until lately permanent head of the civil department of the War Office, has in a series of elaborate letters to the *Times* done his best to remove the bad impression created by the onslaughts of Mr. Arnold-Foster and other critics, but not with much success, and his intervention has not lessened the outcry for reform. A better effect has been caused by the speech delivered by the Marquis of Lansdowne at a Primrose League meeting in Edinburgh last night. That our military system designed to meet the varied requirements of a widely scattered Empire is complicated goes without saying; Lord Lansdowne declares it to be inevitable, but he maintains that the underlying essential principles—moderate length of service, properly organised battalions at home to supply drafts and territorial connection between the country and army—are simple and sound. As showing that things are not in the dreadful condition some people suppose he mentioned the interesting fact that of 18,000 British infantry now serving in the Tirah force only 330 had less than two years' service, while 13,000 had over four years' service. Then as to the home battalions. They contain more young men than they used to have, but they include on an average as many men over 20 years of age as in the time of long service. On the 1st of November there was only one of these battalions which could not be raised to war strength by replacing the men of under 20 years of age by its own Reservists, and this process would not nearly exhaust the number of Reservists available. Although a "staunch supporter" of the present system, Lord Lansdowne admits that it has its weak points, and that the War Office is finding increasing difficulty in providing both for the normal wants of the Empire and for the special calls which come upon them with increasing frequency. He proposes to organize the Infantry largely in groups of four instead of two battalions, and to enter into a special contract with a portion of the Reservists to rejoin the colours, if required, for actual warlike operations which may not necessitate the calling out of the whole Reserve. The remedy for the present unsatisfactory quality of many of our young recruits is, he thinks, to be found in continuing to enlist these immature youths, but returning them as boys, paying them as boys, and not including them in the effective strength of the battalions till they have reached a certain age. Increase of pay and enlistment of some of our soldiers for three years service only with the option of extending their time with the colours or entering the reserve are points also under consideration. Altogether the War Secretary's speech is described by his chief critic as the "most hopeful pronouncement upon military affairs by a Secretary of State that the country has listened to for a long time." Incidentally Lord Lansdowne observed that ultimately we might be driven to the adoption of compulsory service. The late Military member of the Viceroy's Council, speaking at a dinner of the Fishmonger's Company, last night, expressed his opinion that we are rapidly approaching the time when we should have to face the problem which he concisely stated in the words "yourselves or your money." The principal, almost the only valid, objection to conscription in a country which like England depends so largely upon its manufactures is that compulsory service would injure our industry by withdrawing young men from civil employment. But this objection will soon cease to operate in the United Kingdom, for these senseless and disastrous wars between labour and capital will drive all trade out of the country. Lord Lansdowne says the criticism indulged in with reference to the Army is purely destructive. It is almost entirely destructive, and I notice that in a discussion presided over by the Duke of Connaught at Aldershot, the other day, even Sir Charles Dilke did not get beyond more or less vague generalities. A friend of mine who has given some thought to the subject suggests that we should adopt the Swiss system of compulsory service. That might be a good thing for protection at home in case of anything happening to our fleet; but would it solve the problem of Empire defence?

THE GREAT STRIKE.

The hopes recently expressed by Lord Salisbury and other public men that the protracted struggle between the engineering firms and their workmen was approaching a satisfactory settlement have unhappily not been realised and the prospect is extremely gloomy. A week ago the Westminster Conference adjourned "sine die" to enable the masters' proposals to be submitted to the vote of the men. This has not yet been done—perhaps there has not been time,—but if Mr. John Burns, M.P., is right the chance of the employers agreeing to the conditions laid down by the masters' representatives is extremely remote and what will then happen remains to be seen. The position as explained by Mr. Burns is this: either a guarantee of £15,000 per week must be raised or the strike must come to an end and the men get back to work as quickly as possible. The way it is proposed to raise the large sum required to continue operations is by convening a national convention of trade unions. A levy of three pence per week on all the trade unionists of the country would bring in £18,750 per week; but Mr. Burns does not seem to be so sanguine as some of the other leaders about the ability of the men to hold out much longer. Sir Edward Clarke, M.P., in a speech at Rotherhithe has been appealing to both sides to make mutual concessions, and as an evidence of the disastrous results of the quarel he points out that already nearly three quarters of a million of money has been expended out of the funds of the Amalgamated Society in keeping the men in unwilling idleness. The sympathies of the distinguished Conservative lawyer seem to incline towards the men, for he holds that the complete success of the employers in this strike—supposing it were pushed to the extreme—would mean practically the destruction of the great organization of labour in this country. Most persons regret that the Trade Unions should have allowed themselves to be captured by Socialists; but on the whole their influence is good and if the labour organisations disappeared we should, as Sir E. Clarke evidently foresees be face to face with a dangerous war of classes such as prevails in some Continental countries. The preposterous talk on the part of a certain class of railway servants about a general strike near Christmas has ended in smoke. There are some things a long-suffering British public will stand, but a general strike of railway servants in Christmas week is not one of them, and the railway men have had the sense to see this. I say the railway men but it is only the lower grades who are in favour of resorting to such an extreme measure and not all of these. The present movement is largely confined to the north-eastern districts of England and South Wales.

THE AUTHORISED LIBERAL PROGRAMME.

The Derby Programme adopted at a meeting of the general committee of the National Liberal Federation, on Tuesday, promises to become almost as celebrated as the famous Newcastle Programme. The stalwarts were in great force at Derby and

carried everything before them. They even included woman's suffrage as a plank in the Liberal programme, and by the not inconsiderable majority of 189 to 127. It remains to be seen whether this particular plank will be approved by the delegates of the Federation as a whole when they assemble for the annual caucus. As it leaves the hands of the general committee the Liberal programme comprises one man one vote; three months' qualification; payment of registration official and candidate's official expenses out of public funds; woman's suffrage; all elections on one day; second ballots where candidates do not secure a clear majority of the votes polled; and of course abolition of "the votes of an hereditary, unrepresentative, and irresponsible House of Peers." There is one foolish thing the general committee did not do. They abstained from adopting the pet scheme of Mr. Labouchere, namely, the creation of a number of peers sufficient to break down any resistance on the part of the House of Lords.

THE DEATH-ROLL.

Another of the distinguished pupils of Arnold at Rugby, the Rev. Dr. Lake, has just passed away in his eightieth year. A generation ago he occupied a very prominent position not only as an ecclesiastic and scholar, but as a man of affairs. His remarkable knowledge of foreign languages caused him to be appointed a member of the Commission which forty years ago made an exhaustive inquiry into the state of military education in France, Russia, and Austria. He was also a member of the Royal Commission which at the end of the fifties was created "to inquire into the present state of popular education in England, and to consider and report what measures, if any, are required for the extension of a sound and cheap elementary education to all classes of the people." The disclosures made by that Commission as to the shamefully backward condition of elementary education in England made a propound impression on the public mind, and the wonder is that more than twenty years should have been allowed to elapse before this problem was solved. Dean Lake's share in the inquiry of 1858 was very considerable and he is rightly regarded as the pioneer of the late Mr. Forster's famous Education Bill. Mr. Gladstone, by whom he was connected by his wife and for whose political policy he professed a great admiration, conferred upon him the deanery of Durham in 1869, which he continued to hold until three of four years ago. It is believed that he would have succeeded Arnold as headmaster of his old school but for the unacceptance of his popular sympathies. A certain London journal, formerly the slavish admirer of "the people's William," but now a hater of Mr. Gladstone and all his works, says of the late Dean that he "was a splendid example of an English gentleman—stately, courteous, learned, and kind; a man who, although a Radical, feared God and honoured the Queen." We may sympathise with a Liberal newspaper when it says of the above extract:—"The Tory claim to a monopoly of loyalty is an old one, but this attempt to make religion something 'for Tories only' is distinctly new." As a clergyman it was not unnatural that Dr. Lake should fear God; and I do not observe that in any of the numerous programmes which have recently been prepared for the edification of the Liberal party dishonour to the Queen is one of the "items."

Another politician, but of a more advanced type than Dean Lake, died a day later and at the same age. I refer to George Julian Harney whom older men will remember as one of the pillars of the Chartist movement. He was the last of that band whose names and deeds are cherished in the political clubs of the proletariat. As not unfrequently happens, his political opinions underwent a great change in later life, and although I do not suppose he was a member of a Primrose League, his aversion for Mr. Gladstone was so great as to entitle him to the gratitude of all good Conservatives. Even the Liberal Press admits that the veteran ex-Chartist's principal pride in his declining days was to catalogue and enumerate the blunders of the octogenarian Liberal statesman.

Other deaths to be recorded this week are those of the actor, Mr. William Blakeley, who had for so many years been a popular member of the Criterion Company, where he played old men's parts so admirably; Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Straghan (of the Norfolk Regiment), who died on board the transport Danera, at Suez, on his way home from India; Mr. Andrew Hillson, a director of the Anchor Line; Dr. Campbell Marfit, the distinguished chemist, a citizen of the United States, but long a resident in England; Colonel Lowry, a somewhat prominent member of the Unionist party in Ireland; M. de Fourton, a French politician whose chief claim to distinction is that he once fought a sensational duel with Gambetta; and the Very Rev. Bartholomew Cavanagh, Roman Catholic Archdeacon of Tuam, well known in connection with the apparitions and miracles reported to have occurred at the parish Church of Knock, about eighteen years ago.

CALCUTTA NOTES.

Our correspondent writes under date Thursday, Dec. 23:—The levee and the drawing room being now satisfactorily over, Calcutta is settling itself down to the consideration of Christmas and the Viceroy's Cup. The Government offices are supposed to be closed for the holidays, which means to say that the subordinate officers are largely away and their chiefs in consequence doing double work, for the Calcutta season is too brief this year to admit of losing a day more of it than can be helped. Meanwhile, the city is putting on its gayest mood. The annual competition has started at the Golf Club. Prize-giving meetings, as each school breaks up, are the order of the day. The Saturday Club's delightful dances are in full swing, and the long line of carriages, which are to be seen once a week outside the United Service Club, are sufficient proof of the success of the ladies' afternoon, which the officials have inaugurated.

The event of the week has, of course, been the announcement of the Government's decision to introduce further legislation for the purpose of dealing with sedition, and Mr. Chalmers' exceedingly able exposition of the official aspect of the case, as well as the Viceroy's more sympathetic utterances, have been the subject of very general discussion. The general opinion appears to be, at least so far as one individual has been able to measure the average of conflicting sentiment, that while legislation upon the subject is exceedingly desirable, to enable an undoubted evil of great magnitude to be more efficiently controlled, important modifications will have to be made in the Bill before it passes into law. On this subject, however, we shall know more when the measure has been discussed by the various public bodies which have yet to send in their recommendations to be considered by the Select Committee, whose exceedingly responsible duty it will be to see that, on the one hand, the law is made efficient and uniform to check irresponsible and ignorant incitement to disaffection, and on the other, that the principles of English justice are not departed from, or anything allowed to stand that can be taken exception to by the Anglo-Indian press, than which the Government have none more loyal supporters, yet none more jealous of the slightest interference, or better able to protect their privileges to the uttermost title.

For the moment, affairs on the frontier have sunk into a position of secondary importance. With three brigades concentrated at the mouth of the Khyber, however, and about to advance up that historic defile in order to force their way into the Bazar Valley, where resistance is almost certain to be encountered, the lull can only be a temporary one. Meanwhile there are plenty of other matters to attract our attention in Calcutta, and for the time being we are content to forget the Afridis.

THE THESPIAN CLUB.

The Committee of the Thespian Club have arranged to produce "The Magistrate," at the Novelty Theatre, on Tuesday and Thursday, the 1st and 3rd of February next. The cast will be an exceptionally strong one, such popular amateurs as Mr. and Mrs. Nigel Jones, Mr. E. F. Nicholson, and Mr. Montague de P. Webb, being among the "dramatis personæ."

THE THIRTEENTH INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

AMRAOTI, Dec. 27.

The thirteenth National Congress opened its Session, to-day, at half-past one. The pavilion was overcrowded, and great enthusiasm prevailed. There were over 2,000 visitors, besides 700 delegates. Mr. Khaparde, the chairman of the Reception Committee, welcomed the delegates in a neat speech, observing that last year Anti-Congressmen wished that the Congress may be stopped on account of famine, but the Congress was held in spite of the famine, and was a brilliant success this year. The wish was again father to the thought. They clamoured that no Congress should be held on account of plague. The difficulties of the Reception Committee were great, but were overcome by patience, perseverance, and a spirit of compromise. It should be remembered that though the people may criticise Government measures, the people are always with Government when plague or famine have to be expelled from the land. He appealed to the delegates to carry on the deliberations of the thirteenth Congress with the same sobriety of judgment and moderation as they have carried on that of the past Congresses.

The Hon'ble Mr. Surendranath Bonnerjee proposed the Hon'ble Mr. Sunkaram Nair as President in a short but eloquent speech. He said: The Congress has arduous duties to discharge; the times are critical, the people are at the parting of waves, and staggered at their own marvellous success in empire-building, they are now going backwards. At such a crisis the Congress wants a statesmanlike guardian. In Mr. Sunkaram Nair the delegates will find such a president. He will do ample justice to his office, which is the highest to which a native of India can aspire. It depends on the esteem and the gratitude of his countrymen.

Mr. Joshi, of Berar, seconded the proposition. He said: The year is unexceptionable, and a strong and unexceptionable president is needed. In Mr. Nair the delegates will find such a one. He blends in him devotion to the Congress, and unquestionable loyalty and ability.

Mr. Malaviya supported, saying the people are rejoiced at the choice of Mr. Nair. Mr. Setalvad, of Bombay, also heartily gave his support, and President Nair was then installed in the presidential chair amidst loud applause and cheers. He then delivered his address, which occupied an hour. Mr. Nair surveyed the present position, touched on political reforms already achieved, on the progress of social and religious reform, on famine and what yet remains to be done to make them next to impossible, on the inequality of the laws, and lastly on the Poona incidents. The peroration was well conceived. Mr. Nair observed that if India is ever to occupy a better position than she fills at present, and take her proper place in the scale of nations, it must be entirely due to the zealous efforts of her educated and enlightened sons. The usual subjects were then dealt with, a Committee was formed, and the Congress adjourned till to-morrow forenoon. Following is the President's inaugural speech:—

Gentlemen,—I thank you heartily for electing me to preside over this great national assembly. We meet at the close of a year that will be memorable in the history of the British Empire. We have witnessed and we have taken part in the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of the reign of our Empress. We rejoice with our fellow-subjects of this vast Empire in the prosperity of that reign. We exult in our acquisition of political rights during this period. We bless her Majesty for her message in 1858 of peace and freedom when the occasion invested it with a peculiar significance. While Englishmen in India inflamed by race animosity and the recollections of the Sepoy Mutiny, which ignorance still calls the Indian Mutiny, were calling for terrible reprisals, she unasked, forgetting and forgiving, issued her gracious proclamation. It was a stern reproof to those who then clamoured for indiscriminate vengeance; it continues to-day a standing rebuke to those of her European subjects who would deny us the rights of equal citizenship. She is to us the living embodiment of what is good in British supremacy, and we may feel assured that her anxiety in our behalf which she manifested in 1858, her kindly regard shown on every subsequent occasion, both in times of joy and of affliction, will continue unabated for the rest of her life. Throughout our land her name is venerated; in almost every language the story of her life has been written and sung, and in years to come her name will rightly find a place in the memory of our descendants along with those great persons whose virtues have placed them in the ranks of Avatars born into this world for the benefit of this, our holy land.

INDIA LOYAL.

Forty years of peace and progress seemed to have amply justified the wise and generous statesmanship of the great Empress, when suddenly this year, we have been startled with the cry of sedition directed not against any specific individual nor even against a number of persons but against a whole class, the product of the liberal policy inaugurated nearly half a century ago. The charge of sedition, faintly heard years ago, against the Congress, a charge the absurdity of which has been often exposed, has now been revived against the educated Indians by a section of the Anglo-Indian press. We are tauntingly asked to study our past history for proof of our degraded condition from which the English Government has raised us, and to contrast it with the blessings we now enjoy. We do not need the invitation. We are acquainted with our immediate past; we feel grateful for the present. But our opponents forget we are more concerned with the progress of our country in the fusure than with the benefits we have already derived under British rule. We are well aware of the disordered state of this country when it passed, with its insecurity of person and property, under British rule, of the enormous difficulties our rulers had to overcome in introducing orderly administration without any help from the then existing agencies. We recognize that the association of the people in the Government of the country except to a very limited extent was then impossible. We also know that British rule cleared the way to progress and furnished us with the one essential—English education, which was necessary to rouse us from the torpor of ages and bring about the religious, social and political regeneration which the country stands so much in need of. We are also aware that with the decline of British supremacy we shall have anarchy, war and rapine. The Mahomedans will try to recover their lost supremacy. The Hindu races and chiefs will fight amongst themselves. The lower castes who have come under the vivifying influence of Western civilization are scarcely likely to yield without a struggle to the dominion of the higher castes. And we have Russia and France waiting for their opportunities. The ignorant masses may possibly not recognize the gravity of the danger attendant on any decline of England's power in the East. But it is ridiculous to suggest that those who have received the benefit of English education are so shortsighted enough not to see and weigh that danger. While, however, full of gratitude for what Great Britain has done to India,—for its Government which secures us from foreign aggression and ensures security of person and property,—it should not be forgotten for a moment that the real link that binds us indissolubly to England is the hope, the well-founded hope and belief, that with England's help we shall, and, under her guidance alone, we can attain national unity and national freedom. The educational policy of the Government, a policy which combines beneficence with statesmanship, justified such hopes in us. Those hopes were confirmed by various pledges. Those pledges were followed by the creation of institutions by which we were admitted to a share in our ordinary Government which must surely, though slowly, lead to the full fruition of our ambitions. Just look for a moment at the training we are receiving. From our earliest school-days the great English writers have been our classics. Englishmen have been our professors in Colleges. English history is taught us in our schools. The books we generally read are English books which describe in detail all the forms of English life, give us all the English types of character. Week after week, English newspapers, journals and mazagines pour into India for Indian readers. We, in fact, now live the life of the English. Even the English we write shows not only their turns of thought but also their forms of feeling and thinking. It is impossible under this training not to be penetrated with English ideas, not to acquire English conceptions of duty, of rights, of brotherhood. The study and practice of the law now pursued with such avidity by our people, by familiarising them with reverence for authority and with sentiments of resistance to what is not sanction by law, have also materially contributed to the growth of mental independence.

POLITICAL REFORM.

Imbued with these ideas and principles, we naturally desire to acquire the full rights and to share the responsibilities of British citizenship. We have learnt that in the acquisition o those rights and in the recognition of the principles on which they are based, lie the remedy for the evils afflicting our country, evils similar to those from which England herself once suffered. We know that in Great Britain race differences between Norman and Saxon, at one period more virulent than those which at any time existed between Hindu and Mahomedan, religious intolerance which has scarcely been surpassed in India, class divisions equalling any in our own country, a degradation, political and social, of the masses which may be equalled here but could never have been exceeded—all these have disappeared in the common struggle for freedom, and in the combined effort to retain it when acquired, in which each required the help of its antagonist and each was obliged to concede to others the right claimed for itself and which, therefore, resulted in the recognition and solemn affirmation of principles of Government which obliterated all distinctions of race or religion, caste or class. Those principles affirmed the equality of all before law and Government, the right of self-Government by the people themselves through their representatives, and complete freedom of speech and discussion as the very breath of national life. It is the hope that one day we may be admitted as equal sharers in this great inheritance, that we shall have all the civil rights associated with the English Government, that we shall be admitted as freely as Englishmen themselves to worship in this temple of freedom—it is this hope that keeps India and will keep her always attached to the British. This hope is sustained by pledges solemnly made; and the sentiment of loyalty to the British connection created by repeated declarations that we shall be gradually allowed the full rights of English citizenship is already in full force. Such a pledge was made in 1833 when Parliament solemnly declared that race or religion or colour shall not be a disqualification for holding any appointment. This declaration of policy in a time of peace has been solemnly affirmed after the mutiny. Already the pledge has been in part redeemed. We have been admitted, as it were, into the outer precincts of the temple of freedom. The press has been enfranchised. Partially elected members sit in our local and legislative councils. We can enter the civil service through the open door of competition. These blessings are no doubt now coupled with conditions which unfortunately detract from their value. But these great and healthy principles have nurtured and consolidated a sentiment of affection. All that England has to do is to persist resolutely in the line of policy she has initiated and thereby deepen that feeling of loyalty which makes us proud of our connection with England. I myself feel that there is very little reason to fear that England will reverse the past. To deny us the freedom of the press, to deny us representative institutions, she will have to ignore those very principles for which the noblest names in her history have toiled and bled. She cannot close all her educational institutions in the country. She cannot persuade us not to read the fiery denunciations of every illiberal form of Government, of the petty acts of tyranny committed anywhere on the face of the earth, which appear in her papers imported into India week after week. It is impossible to keep out of India eloquent orations on patriotism by men like Mr. Chamberlain—a Cabinet Minister holding up to admiration the memory of patriots like Wallace whose head was stuck up on the traitor's gate of the city of London, of Bruce guilty of foul murder in a church, of Emmet and other Irish leaders executed or hung for treason by the English Government. It is impossible to argue a man into slavery in the English language. Thus one of the conditions requisite for the fruition of our political aspirations is the continuance of the British rule. The fond hope that India may one day take her place in the confederacy of the free English-speaking nations of the world can be realised only under England's guidance with England's help. Years must elapse, it is true, before India can be in a position to enter before we get representative institutions on the models of those of the English-speaking communities. Slavery we had under our old rulers, Hindu and Mahomedan; we may again get it under any despotic European or Asiatic Government. But we know that real freedom is possible only under the Government of the English nation, nurtured in liberty, hating every form of tyranny, and willing to extend the blessings of representative Government to those capable of using it wisely in the interests of freedom and progress.

SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS REFORM.

Great as is the necessity of British rule for the political emancipation of our country, even greater is the necessity for social and religious reform. In the present circumstances of India, inhabited as it is by followers of various religions, various sects, classes, very often with antagonistic interests, any Government which is not strictly secular and absolutely impartial must be disastrous to the best interests of the country. The customs, institutions, beliefs, practices of one community are denounced by others as unreasonable and destructive of true faith. Some of our reformers, hopeless of any internal reform, are building up a new social system and accordingly have adopted an attitude so antagonistic to the popular religion that they are regarded as seceders from Hinduism. Others again have formed themselves into sects each claiming to be orthodox and denying to others the merit of adherence to the true Hindu religion. We have also preachers in our midst who while deprecating any revolt or open defiance urge the purification of the Hindu faith. The gulf between Hinduism and other religions has been considered impassable. But attempts are being made with some success to re-admit converts into Hinduism. Steps are being taken to remove the religious antagonism of religious hostility between Hindus and Mahomedans. Some of the lower castes resent the galling yoke of caste so bitterly that they seek refuge in Mahomedanism or Christianity. The original four castes had multiplied into a number that must appear to every man unreasonable and absurd. There must be a general desire to break down the barriers between these numerous castes. Knowledge is accessible to all. The Vedas and other holy books are now common property; equality in knowledge must eventually lead to the practical removal, if not the entire destruction of the great barriers that now divide the various classes. Even now are we aware of the attempts that are being made to restore our women to the position which competent authorities maintain they occupied in ancient India. We want in brief to eliminate, if necessary from our system all that stands in the way of progress. We desire to absorb and assimilate into our own whatever appears good to us in western civilization. This is impossible under a Government which would uphold a particular social system or a particular form of religion to the exclusion of others as some of the ancient Governments of India did. To break down the isolation of the Hindu religion, to remove the barriers which now prevent free social intercourse and unity of action, to extend the blessings of education to the lower classes, to improve the position of women to one of equality to men, we require the continuance of a strictly secular Government in thorough sympathy with liberal thought and progress. I refrain to-day to propose to refer to the various subjects that we have been continually pressing on the attention of our Government and of the public. This year, Mr. Dadabai Naoroji and our four Indian witnesses have stated our grievances before the Welby Commission with a fulness and clearness which leave nothing to be desired. They have stood the test of cross-examination by those who have constituted themselves the advocates of Indian Government and their evidence will remain on record as a protest against some of the short-comings of British administration. Our thanks are due to them.

(To be continued.)

ARRIVAL OF THE OVERLAND MAILS OF THE 10TH DECEMBER.

The P. and O. Co.'s s. s. Carthage, Capt. J. R. Loudon, R. N. R., with the Overland mails of December 10, arrived in Bombay harbour, at daylight on Sunday. She brought the following passengers:—

FROM LONDON.

Ashdown, Miss
Buchanan, Rev
Bishop, Mrs, child and inft
Bunbury, Mrs and inft
Banbury, Mr H
Craig, Mr
Clogstoun, Mrs and infant
Caroline, Sister
Coen, Mr S W
Dunsmuir, Mr A
Eakin, Mr Jas
Francis, Mr A H
Gibbell, Miss
Harvey, Mr
Hopkins, Mr and Mrs R H H
Hoskins, Rev and Mrs
Makin, Mr Jas
Macpherson, Mr
Moneypenny, Miss
Miles, Capt
Neill, Capt
Noble, Mr A
Phillips, Mr A
Riches, Mrs
Smith, Dr
Skipworth, Mr F C
Shaw, Mr
Thurnam, Mrs S
Thompson, Miss and 2 sisters
Willets, Mr and Mrs

FROM BRINDISI.

Black, Mr J
Coleridge, Mr F A
Coen, Mr E W
Copeland Prof
Coulburn, Mr D A
Carnegie, Charles Mr
Doshi, Mr V S
Duguid, Mr H
Dunnett, Mr and Mrs
Eugeroff, Mr B
Franzjee, Mr R
Fawcett, Mr S
Greaves, Mrs
Gowans, Mr J F
Haines, Mr H H
Hamton, Mr
Kerr, Mr H M
Khare, Mr D A
Lerache Countesse, The
Little, Mr C W G
Morvi, H H Thakore of
Marshall, Mrs
Nanavatty, F R C S, (Edin) Dr B H
Nisbet, Mr J
Ross, the Rt Hon Earle of
Skinner, Mr and Mrs
Whittle, Mr and Mrs
Wilson, Mr

FROM GIBRALTAR.

Andrade, Mr and Mrs
Tavora, Mr S de N

FROM ADEN.

Grant, Major
Maria, Santa Mr

The goods traffic on the B. B. and C. I. Railway for the week ending 4th December 1897 shows an increase on the corresponding week of 1896 of 67,908 maunds with a decrease of Rs. 1,350 in the earnings.

With reference to the despatch of the 27th Bombay Infantry to Mombasa, we are glad to say that all the charges will be defrayed out of Imperial funds. India has lent the regiment to the War Department, and the ordinary pay and allowances of the troops while employed in East Africa will be borne by this country, together with the extra pay and expences of every kind. This is as it should be, though not by any means as it has always been.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

Second-Lieutenant Fitzgerald, Oxfordshire Light Infantry, died of enteric at Nowshera on Wednesday.

Mr. H. S. Barnes, Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan, will proceed on three months' leave at the beginning of February. Colonel Henry Wylie, Resident in Nepal, will officiate for him.

A further casualty return for the forces engaged on the North-West frontier has been published. It shows that up to the 17th instant 424 officers and men have been killed and 1,296 wounded; while five British and one native soldier are reported missing.

The Chausa camp was opened on the 23rd, and the persons inspected for plague at that station on the East Indian Railway will not be again inspected at Khana. Khana will cease to be an inspecting station altogether now, but the camp there will be maintained for the detention of suspects until the new one at Chakardurpur opens about a month hence. Passengers travelling by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway will in future be inspected at Asansol, where a medical lady doctor and an Assistant Surgeon will be stationed. Persons suspected of having plague will be railed in special carriages from Asansol to Khana.

Some difficulty has been experienced by those who are endeavouring to enforce salutary plague measures in the village of Berampur in Juliunder district, owing principally to the fact that the numerous Rajput settlers keep their women in strict *purdah*. It was proposed to clear the people out of the infected locality and lodge them in a segregation camp, but the Deputy Commissioner has received earnest representations that caste women of the Rajputs cannot commingle in a camp provided indiscriminately for all classes. For the present, therefore, only those actually infected with plague will be removed to the segregation camp, and meanwhile the difficulty has been brought to the notice of the Government for orders.

On the 21st instant, Mr. Rigg, Consulting Engineer to Government, inspected and passed for both goods and passenger traffic the temporary bridge on the B. and N.-W. Railway, across the Chauku and Gogra rivers near Babramghat. The first crossing, opened for goods traffic only in 1894, was made up of three separate pile bridges, and of two floating or pontoon bridges, carrying the line of rails, and altogether covering a distance in the bed of the river of nearly four miles; but this year the Resident Engineer, Mr. W. J. Turnbull, has surpassed all previous records, having driven the whole volume of the two rivers through a single pile bridge, consisting of 86 spans of 20 foot girders. Thus the important link connecting the extensive narrow-gauge railway systems of Bengal and the North-Western Provinces on the east, with those of Rajputana on the west, becomes for the time being a "fait accompli." The site chosen for the temporary bridge this season is just below and parallel to the big permanent bridge, consisting of 17 spans of 200 feet, which is now under construction by the B. and N.-W. Railway Company. This important work progresses rapidly; 16 of the brick and stone piers having been built and 4½ spans of girders erected up to date, so that with ordinary luck it is expected that the whole of the girders will be up before next rains. The difficulty of training and keeping the two rivers under the girders, when they are erected, is an engineering problem of no small magnitude.

The Secretary of State has declined to accept the proposal of the Government of India to antedate the promotion of Majors and Captains in the Staff Corps by one year. It is pointed out that in British Corps, where promotion has been slowest, the periods required for promotion in the Staff Corps have been exceeded, and that any isolated attempt to prevent supersession will only create another class of grievance.

Mat Salleh, who has succeeded in inducing the Borneo police to run their heads vainly against his stockade, is a petty brigand who distinguished himself some months ago by looting an up-country treasury and killing some constables. He has grievances against the Borneo Company, but his small success is likely to prove fatal to him and to lead to his prompt suppression. The affairs has cost a valuable life, but of no importance whatever.

It is reported that five Russian military instructors have arrived in China. Several Russians have also been appointed as Customs officers. The French in Tonkin are reported to be demanding territorial and railway concessions, and the appointment of Frenchmen as Customs officers in the southern provinces of China.

In the Divorce Division, on Dec. 3, before the President, the Rev. Alfred E. Foster, vicar of Christ Church, Richmond, Surrey, pettioned for a dissolution of his marriage on the ground of his wife's adultery with his brother, William E. Foster. There was no defence, and, after hearing evidence, his Lordship granted a decree nisi, with costs, and gave the petitioner the custody of the six children of the marriage.

Threatening clouds, says the Vienna correspondent of the *Times*, are rapidly gathering on the horizon of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. The crisis in Austria has now developed into an Austro-Hungarian crisis, and fresh elements of discontent and disturbance are coming to the surface. The breach between the Germans and Czechs is now assuming the proportions of a conflict between the Germans and Slavs. While it is fully recognised in both camps that the vital interests of the country are at stake, neither one nor the other shows any disposition to surrender a particle of its pretensions.

The council of the Royal Military Tournament have issued the programme of the nineteenth Military Exhibition, to be held at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, from May 19 to June 2 next. The total value of the prizes to be competed for is of the aggregate value of £1191 7s., and will include, among other events, competitions by the auxiliary forces from May 19 till the 23rd; officers' competitions, May 31 and June 1 and 2; and by regulars from May 24 till 30. Besides the usual competitions, the tournament will include the popular musical ride by cavalry, a display of combined forces of all arms, Army gymnastic staff, Aldershot, Royal Navy, and cavalry melee representing the Balaclava Charge. The contests for the "Empire" gold medals include bayonet v. bayonet, heads and posts, lemon-cutting, tent-pegging, sabre v. sabre, and lance mounted v. bayonet dismounted, and there will be special competitions for Colonials. The entries close on April 23.

The joint executive committee of the Parliamentary Opposition has issued a communique stating that the negotiations between the Prime Minister and the deputation appointed by themselves have up to the present led to no positive result. In these circumstances, the Premier has announced to the committee that he must, for the moment, regard the negotiations as closed.

The Religious Society of Friends has issued an extensive circular letter, which is to be widely circulated throughout the country, appealing to the nation in the interests of perpetual peace, and practically advocating a general international disarmament. The letter, which is issued by the direction of a meeting of the society, held on Friday, lays down the doctrine that all war is unlawful, and that it seemed as if the arts of peace on which the marvellous progress of the Queen's reign had largely rested, were ignored in the warlike character of the procession through London in celebration of the sixtieth year of her Majesty's reign. This warlike spirit, they feared, had been stimulated to a great extent by many of the boys' brigades, and it seemed deplorable that what in many respects was so good a work should be marred by the introduction of the military element. After an expression of alarm at the proposal for an increase of the Army, the necessity for which it attributes to the wars constantly being carried on in India and in Africa, the letter concludes with an appeal in favour of arbitration, and says that a court for the administration of international justice would be a far more potent means of security than the largest Army and Navy.

THE WEEK'S MAIL SUMMARY.

LONDON, Dec. 10.

The conference in the engineering dispute has resulted in a failure to come to an agreement on qdite a number of important points on which the parties are at issue, and at the close of the sitting the men's representatives resolved on an adjournment till Tuesday, 14th inst., in order that the matters in dispute may be submitted to the vote of the members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers throughout the country. In an address issued by the men's representatives to their branches of the union, they describe the claims of the employers as subversive of the principles of Trade Unionism, and state that it is only the seriousness of the present situation that induces them to submit the questions of dispute to a vote of the engineers in the Union. Several officials of trade unions are represented as having said that if the engineers are beaten the real fight will have only begun, that the acceptance of the proposals of the Employers' Federation implies practically the extinction of unionism and that they are willing to take an active part in a combined movement of resistence to the employers.

The Board of Trade emphatically declines to intervene with a view to bringing about a conference between representatives of the railway companies and of railway workers on the points in dispute. The Executive Committee of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants have now instructed their general secretary to recommend the grade secretaries to forward their applications direct to their respective companies for an interview, and hoping that no difficulties would be experienced.

With ceremonial befitting the important occasion, the new M'Ewan Hall of the University of Edinburgh was formally opened on Friday, and handed over by Mr M'Edwan, M.P., the generous donor, to the University authorities. Mr A. J. Balfour, the Chancellor, presided over the ceremony, and in accepting the gift, said they might now consider the University buildings to be worthy of the great history and the great traditions of that ancient seat of learning. The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on Mr M'Ewan.

The storm on Wednesday was severely felt over the whole of Scotland. The wind was south-westerly and blew at times with the force of a gale. In the south of Scotland the snowfall was accompanied by a pretty severe thunderstorm. Although on the coast a good deal of the snow melted as it fell, there remained a covering of an inch or two in the country districts, and on the high lands it lay to a very considerable dept.

The Edinburgh police have received a letter from the director of the Stockhold detective department, in confirmation of his previous telegram, stating that the young woman, Terese Ulfeld, who recently shot herself at the head-quarters of the Edinburgh police, was of poor parentage. It may be remembered that at first it was believed she was a Countess.

Lord Rosebery spoke on his turf experiences at the annual dinner on Tuesday of the York Gimcrack Club, in proposing success and prosperity to the Club. He made a humorous allusion to the attacks made upon him at the time of his winning the Derby when he was Prime Minister.

The Edinburgh Merchants' Association of Wednesday appointed a committee to confer with leading citizens with a view to promoting an international Exhibition in Edinburgh in 1899.

President McKinley, in his Message to the United States Congress, discussed the question of Cuba at considerable length. He welcomed the attitude of the existing Spanish Administration towards the Cubans. Spain must be given a reasonable chance to realise her expectations. The near future, he continued, will demonstrate whether a righteous peace is likely to be attained. "If not the exigency of further action by the United States will remain. Sure of its right, the Government will continue its watchful eye over American citizens, and its efforts to bring about an honourable peace; and if it shall hereafter appear to be a duty imposed by our obligations to ourselves, and to civilisation and humanity, to intervene with force, it shall be without fault on our part, and only because the necessary of such action shall be so clear as to command the support and approval of the civilised world."

The force of 1,400 marines and naval artillery ordered to Kiao-chau to strengthen the German garrison there will leave Wilhelmshaven about the middle of the month on board a North German Lloyd steamer, which has been chartered by the Government. According to a telegram from Pekin, China, hoping for the evacuation of Kiao-chau, has agreed unconditionally to all Germany's demands.

An important point in the Dreyfus-Esterhazy case was reached on Saturday, when General Saussier, the Military Governor of Paris, announced his report on the investigation by General Pellieux into the charge brought by M. Mathieu Dreyfus against Major Esterhazy. General Saussier orders "a Court-martial to institute an investigation into the affair of Major Esterhazy."

There is disquieting news from Crete. The insurgents have attacked the Turkish troops at Kissamo; the garrison replied, and a hot fusillade lasting an hour followed. A thousand insurgents in another part of the island attacked a village to avenge a murder.

A Consular report from Berlin showing the results of German trade in the first three quarters of 1897 in comparison with British trade in the same period, indicates a decrease in British commerce and an increase in German.

The German Emperor, in a speech on foreign affairs, referred to the general position of affairs in the world, and said it was such as admitted of no delay in carrying out the Government's naval programme.

Turks in Syria, it seems, are fully convinced that the power of this country is about to break, in consequence of the defeat of the Greeks.

A startling rumour comes from Norway. Scotia that the steamer Avoca, with a thousand British troops on board, has foundered.

The Irish Land Acts Commission concluded its hearing of evidence in Dublin on Friday. On Wednesday a meeting was held at which Mr. Lecky, Mr. Dillon, and Mr. Healy united in support of the Irish Financial Reform League. In Scotland, Lord Dufferin has taken part in a bazaar for the benefit of his political opponents; the National Union of Conservative Associations has met in Glasgow, Lord Balfour of Burleigh being the chief speaker; and speeches by Mr. Asquith, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, and Sir E. Grey are also reported. In the southern half of our island we have had political addresses by Lord Spencer, at Ipswich; Mr. Herbert Gladstone, at Guildford; Mr. Haldane, at Oxford; and Mr. Curzon, at Crosby. A new Radical programme has been drawn up at Derby by the committee of the National Liberal Federation.

The Earl of Rosebury was the chief guest of the Gimcrack Club at York on Tuesday, and humorously warned young men from following his example in connexion with the turf.

Sir Arthur Haliburton has taken up the cudgels on behalf of the War Office, with which he was so long connected. We commend his reply to Mr. Arnold-Forster. The Duke of Connaught, Lord Wolseley, Lord Chelmsford, Lord Charles Beresford, Lord Wantage, and Lord Onslow have all touched on this subject of Army Reform during the week, in speeches or letters.

The Engineering Conference ended, at any rate for the time, on Friday. The employers stuck to their conditions, which are now to be submitted to a vote of the men. Sir Edward Clarke and Lord Monkswell join in the discussion caused by the strike and lock-out. The project of a general railway strike has collapsed; and so has the cotton employers' scheme for reducing wages.

Lieut. Peary, the American explorer, addressed the Royal Geographical Society on Monday and explained his plans for reaching the North Pole. We may also mention here a speech by Mr. Bryce as President of the Norwegian Club, an address by Sir John Lubbock on the manner and customs of ants, a lecture at the Imperial Institute on Canadian gold mines, a paper read before the Colonial Institute on Australian Natural History, an Article Club discussion on Science and Commerce, and a meeting of the British Empire League at which the Canadian insolvency laws were criticized.

The vicar of St. Mark's, Marylebone, has been condemned by a Church Court to remove the "Stations of the Cross" which he had erected without authority. The Bishop of Southwell has set forth his views on the relation between ritual and doctrine, in a reply to a protest by the Church Association. The 200th anniversary of the opening of St. Paul's Cathedral was celebrated last week by a Masonic service.

The annual Cattle show of the Smithfield Club is now open at the Agricultural-hall. The Queen's Christmas sale of fat stock was held at Windsor on Wednesday, £3,320 being realized.

In the Law Courts decisions have been given confirming the right of a Canadian province to appoint Queen's Counsel, rejecting the Dunlop Company's claim that the Fleuss pneumatic tire infringes their patent, awarding £19,500 salvage in the case of the abandoned steamer Glenggle, condemning Dr. Clark, M. P. to pay £100 for being a day late with his election returns, and maintaining the right of the Government to estate duties which Earl Cowley objected to pay. Three convicted murderers have been respited.

The Authors' Society declines to join hands with the publishers in compelling booksellers to give less than 25 per cent. discount.

Three days of the Ashburnham book and manuscript sale have realized more than £8,000; a hundred violins were sold on Tuesday for £1,928; and 3,350 guineas were paid last week for a single portrait by H. R. Morland.

The obituary list this week includes the names of Dr. Lake, formerly Dean of Durham; Canon Tinling, of Gloucester; Mr. G. Rhys Jones, known to musicians as Caradog; Mr. F. H. Massey, the engineer, and Miss A. M. Fox, of Falmouth.

The resignation by Baron de Mohrenhelm of the Russian Embassy to France is announced. He will be succeeded by Prince Urussoff. Russian Minister in Brussels, while M. Nicholas de Giers, Councillor of the Embassy in Paris, goes to Brussels.

PROBLEMS OF IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

Colonel E. H. T. Hutton, C.B., A.D.C., Assistant Adjutant-General at Belfast, lectured, on December 7, before the Military Society at Aldershot on the German and French military manœuvres of 1897, and the lessons to be deduced from them. The Duke of Connaught presided, and Sir Charles Dilke, M.P., was present among a large attendance of officers.—Colonel Hutton, after giving interesting details concerning the discipline and tactics seen in the German and French armies, said in the case of our Regular Army we need fear no comparison with those of Germany and France. Our physique would compare favourably, and the bearing of our men was unquestionably smarter. Great Britain could be satisfied, too, with her officers. But, apart from all this, the momentous deduction was the fact that our defence system was altogether inadequate to the existing requirements of the Empire. The military system was the same as when our possessions were fewer. At the present moment we stood with all the vast obligations of a world-wide Empire, face to face with European nations in arms, and surely the time had come, with conditions so vastly altered, for a corresponding change in our military system. (Cheers.) The primary requirements were a comprehensive and generally accepted military policy based upon the naval policy already declared, a definite scheme of defence for the whole Empire based upon the military policy, and a military system upon the co-operative plan, which should fulfil the conditions of the scheme of defence. For the maintenance of order and rights there was the regular Army, and for Empire defence there should be a co-operative system with the Colonies. (Cheers).—Colonel Coke and Colonel Eustace initiated a discussion.—Sir C. Dilke, whose opinions were listened to with rapt attention, first dealt with the co-operative plan between the regular Army and the forces of the Colonies. In time of need, he said, there was no doubt of the Colonies uniting in defence of the Empire. Australia had proffered assistance, and the time might come when she might be useful in India. The British Service, however, was short of artillery, and the auxiliary forces were practically without field artillery. He was glad that the Manœuvres Bill would provide for the better training of the troops. It was necessary to have manœuvres on a large scale every year, and he hoped the coming military proposals would be adequate. He considered that the main point of the lecture was that the Regular Army constituted only a small part of real defence.—Col. Hutton, in reply, said that Sir C. Dilke had hit off his point exactly, which was the absolute necessity for a declaration of military policy based upon the naval policy already declared. They rec

MR. CURZON ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

MR. G. N. CURZON, Under Foreign Secretary addressed a crowded meeting of his constituents at Great Crosby, near Liverpool, on Monday (Dec. 6). Sir William Forwood, M. P., presided. Mr Curzon, who was received with great enthusiasm, said:—There is a question upon which the Government is standing the brunt of a fierce attack in the country, and which is uppermost in the minds of all, even of the happy class who never read speeches and of the still happier class who never have to make them, because of the heroic deeds that are being performed in distant parts of the world by your own countrymen, and because of the grave issues of Imperial policy that lie behind. I speak, of course, of the war that is going on upon the Indian frontier, and of the charges in connection therewith that have been brought against the present Government. I hope I may be allowed without presumption to speak upon this question. For over ten years I have honestly done my best by study, by travel, and by effort to master this problem of the Indian frontier. I was in Chitral only a few months before the outbreak occurred, which has led to recent events. I know the country of the Afridis and the Orakzais, with whom we are now unfortunately fighting, and I think I can claim to be fairly familiar with the whole question of the frontier upon which our arms are now engaged. As I stand my morning paper, there rises up daily before my eyes the panoramas of the serried mountains and the deeper ravines in which our soldiers are engaged, and I see before me, not merely the gallant native soldiers of our Army, who are there reflecting such lustre upon the flag, but I see also those intrepid defenders of their native glens, with whom I have spent so much time, whom I have often seen around my camp fire at night, and who, in an evil hour both for the Indian Government and themselves, have risen against the authority of the British Crown. I do not claim that the fact of having been to a country, or even of having studied a problem, gives a man any right to dogmatise on a question, but it perhaps gives him a greater sense of perspective; it perhaps enables him to focus objects in clearer and more distinct relations, and I do experience some little feeling of resentment when I see column after column in the newspapers filled by the speeches of gentlemen, many of them of the highest eminence, who until this outbreak could not have told you the name of a single tribe on the frontier, but who, having got up the question during the past three months, now enlarge with all the enthusiasm of new-made converts, and with all the majesty of second-hand information, upon Indian frontier policy past, present, and future, upon the attitude and feelings of the tribes, and upon the degree of depravity with which the Government is overwhelmed. This seems to me to be very unjust and not a little absurd; but what I regret even more is that a matter of infinite Imperial importance, upon which differences of opinion might most legitimately be held, but which is, above all things, a matter requiring considerable experience and profound and cautious judgement, should be wrangled on English platforms at a moment when your Indian frontier is ablaze, and should be snatched at as a handle by a political party ostensibly to injure its political opponents in this country, but in reality—for this could be the only consequence—to damage British influence throughout India. People at home who are accustomed to the liberty of an almost untrammelled Press, and who make a liberal discount for the exaggeration of party politics and utterances can scarcely calculate the harm that is capable of being done in our Eastern possessions at a time of crisis, when a great strain is placed upon our Civil services and our Native Army, by statements to the effect that a gross breach of faith has been committed by the Government, and that a policy of wicked aggression is being pursued against the independence of the tribes. I hope to show you in the remarks which I am about to make how calumnious and also how malicious these charges are.

THE ALLEGED "BREACH OF FAITH."

First, as to the charge of a breach of faith, which has enjoyed a short-lived and inglorious prominence in the present controversy. You will remember the facts, which were as follows:—In the spring of 1895 a British Indian force, with a number of British officers, was beleaguered in the remote outpost of Chitral. The Indian Government were obliged to send an expedition to its relief, and, in despatching that force, the Viceroy, Lord Elgin, issued a proclamation in March, 1895, to the people of Swat and Bajour, through whose territory the expedition proposed to march, to the effect that the Government had no intention permanently to occupy any territory through which the troops might be forced to pass, or to interfere with the independence of the tribes. It is in connection with this proclamation and with the steps that followed that the charge of breach of faith has been made. There are two questions which we have to consider. First, Was the action that was subsequently taken regarded as a breach of faith by the tribesmen themselves? And, second, Was it so regarded, or ought it to have been so regarded, by the late Government or by the present Government? Of those two questions, the first strikes me as infinitely more important, but it has been a good deal obscured in the fictitious and partisan importance that has been allowed to attach to the second. I will, however, deal with it first. Let us ascertain what are the facts of the case. After the expedition was over, and the forts of Chitral had been relieved, the relieving force of General Lowe was, according to promise, withdrawn. No attempt was made to annex the country through which the expedition had passed; no interference whatever was made, or has since been made, with the laws and customs and administration or Government of any one of those tribes. Not one penny of revenue has been taken from them; not one rupee of tribute have they been called to pay. But a military road was repaired—or, in places where it had not existed, was made—through these territories, in order to enable our forces to maintain connection with the extreme outpost at Chitral. When the proclamation which I have read to you was issued, I somewhat deprecated its terms, because I thought it suggested that the Indian Government were made to make no effort to construct this road, and as the retention of Chitral and the connection therewith, by means of that road, seemed to me to be a matter of immense strategical importance, I was disposed to regret that attitude. But when a little later the Indian Government asked the permission of the late Government at home to undertake only such work as should consult the tribes as to their willingness to construct this road, and when later the news came that the tribes had given in their adhesion, I was overjoyed, because it seemed to me that the object which I had regarded as of so much importance had been attained by the best and most pacific means. But the tribesmen not merely consented to the construction of the road, they engaged themselves in large numbers as labourers upon it. They undertook to provide, and they have since provided, provisions, fodder, and supplies for the British sappers who are engaged upon it and for the British force at Chakdara and Malakand. Very large sums were paid to them in wages for these purposes. Gratuitous medical assistance was given to thousands of them. Anyone who choose went to the British medical officer. Tribesmen themselves were employed as volunteer guards of the road, which had been made with their own consent through their own country. Mr. Asquith says that the tribes considered the construction of the road to be a gross breach of faith. I do not know what special means Mr. Asquith enjoys of ascertaining what are the views and the feeling of the men of Swat. In another speech he talked about the half-naked tribesmen of Swat, and if his knowledge of them were to be measured by his acquaintance of their exterior, I can only say it need not be treated with any very remarkable respect. Anyhow, I prefer to let the men of Swat speak for themselves, instead of taking Mr. Asquith as their interpreter. Neither in 1895 nor at any time since has there been the slightest hint or insinuation of a breach of faith emanating from them. When they rose in the summer of the present year, 1897, they did not allege this as the cause. When the rebellion was put down on terms which were made between the two parties they never advanced that as an excuse. Out of the 305 men of the tribe of Dir who voluntarily entered our service as guards upon this road, 172 mutinied and left our side, but 133 remained firm, and took part in the warfare against their own people. It seems to me, in view of these facts, which cannot be disputed, that the charge of breach of faith as regarded by the tribesmen themselves has irretrievably broken down.

THE ACTION OF THE LATE GOVERNMENT.

Next turn to the question whether it was so regarded, or ought to have been so regarded, by the late Government or the present Government when we succeeded to their place. From the speeches that have been made by Mr. Morley and Mr. Asquith, and repeated by a hundred minor orators on provincial platforms, it might be imagined that those positive custodians of the national honour never hesitated for a moment themselves when the national honour, as we are now told, was at stake. Surely no other considerations—financial, political, military, or otherwise—should have weighed for a moment in the scales. If I may parody the words of a famous poem in a matter where national honour was at issue:—

> Theirs not to reason why;
> Theirs but to turn and fly

from the post which national honour forbade them to vacate. But what are the facts of the case? A proclamation was issued on March 14, 1895. The Government were in office till the end of June, and during that time their speeches, their answers to questions, their official telegrams and despatches are on record. They are printed and published, and they can be bought by anybody for the price of a few pence. And in the whole of this volume of correspondence not one hint will you find of a question of honour or of a breach of faith. All the while they were in communication with the Viceroy they were engaged in secret conclave among themselves—they were discussing the question whether they should remain in Chitral or whether they should go, and on June 14, they came to a decision and decided to retire. After telegraphing that decision to the Viceroy, who had himself never raised the question of honour in his despatches, because he was not aware of its existence, they expressed themselves as follows:—"The Government fully appreciate your view, but they are unable to concur in the opinion of your Government, to which in all matters"—I think they should have said in all matters but one—"they attach great weight." And it was only after they had resigned, and after we had taken their place, that this question of honour or of breach of faith was heard of for the first time. It appears from what we have heard that in the course of those months there was one moment when, like a flash of lightning, this point of honour appears upon the scene, and we are again thrown into utter darkness. It appears that a private telegram was sent by the Secretary of State to the Viceroy, of which no record has been kept in the India Office, and of which until Sir Henry Fowler told us, the other day, nobody was aware, but which even, in spite of pressure put upon him, we are not allowed to see. I think the public can draw its own conclusions from this. In the first place, if this telegram was private, a public charge ought not to have been based upon it. In the second place, if a public charge were based upon it, the telegram ought to be produced. Then, in the third place, if a point of honour was only found enshrined in this single private telegram which has since disappeared from view, were we not justified in the inference that it could not have balked very large in the views and decisions of the late Government? But when the matter was brought to a head, this matter was pressed in the House of Commons in August of 1895, Sir Henry Fowler, in a speech he then made, admitted that if friendly arrangements were made with the tribes for the making of the roads there had been no violation of the terms of the proclamation. Therefore, the charge *ipso facto* fell to the ground. There the matter should have rested, and there as a matter of fact, it did rest for two years, until suddenly this rebellion broke out upon the Indian frontier; and when Parliament is not sitting, and when elections were pending in different parts of the country, this skeleton of honour is disinterred from its forgotten grave, Mr. Morley and Mr. Asquith breathed upon it and gave it the semblance of vitality and the country is invited to believe that the Government have been guilty of a gross breach of faith, for which it is now paying the penalty in this sorrowful and distressing war. There is one other point to which I must refer in this connection. When that charge was first made it appeared to be pointed against Lord Elgin, the Viceroy, rather than against the Home Government; but that charge was afterwards shifted, and we were told that the imputation was not against Lord Elgin, but was against the Home Government, to whom exclusively the responsibility applied. In so far as this is an enunciation of the constitutional axiom that the Home Government is superior to the Government of Calcutta it is a platitude, and in so far as it is an attempt to shift the responsibility it is a failure. I have never heard a more astounding doctrine. The Viceroy, the great pro-Consul, the Ambassador, is to be at liberty to put forward any proposal, even one which involves a gross breach of honour, and is to be acquitted of all responsibility and his brains of blame is not to rest on the man who makes the suggestion, but exclusively on the Government that adopts it. I altogether repudiate this new canon of ethics, and I am sure it would be repudiated by the Viceroy and any Government official or servant of the Crown. It is a theory which would be absolutely fatal to responsibility an i injurious to the dignity of any public servant in an important position. If there has been a breach of faith, the odium rests upon the Viceroy and upon the Home Government, and if there has been no breach of faith, then both equally are blameless. I do not desire to labour this point, which, after all, is only a minor issue. I hope, however, to show that no breach of faith was ever contemplated by the Viceroy, or has been committed by her Majesty's Government, and that the charge is merely an afterthought of

DISAPPOINTED AND RECKLESS POLITICIANS,

which, when closely examined, recoils upon themselves. I should like to call your attention to much more important issues that lie behind. When the present Governments decided in August, 1895, not to evacuate but to remain in Chitral—whether they were right or whether they were wrong—that is the real point that we have to determine. It seems to me unfair to say that because rebellion has since taken place upon the frontier it must be due to the fact that we remained behind in Chitral, and, therefore, that the policy of remaining there stands self-condemned. I do not accept those premises, and I repudiate the conclusion. What are the facts of the recent rising? A British officer's escheon is sent to collect taxes, a party of British officers and Indian soldiers, who had gone up to collect some fees, and make certain arrangements in a place called the Tochi Valley. The Tochi Valley is separated by about 350 miles of territory—a tangle of impassable mountains—from Chitral. I venture to say, knowing the country—that no Chitralee has ever been in the Waziri country and that no Waziri has ever been in Chitral. There is no connection or communication between the two. You might as well argue that a street row at Maidstone was due to some incident which happened two years ago at Aberdeen. A little later, at the end of July, there was a rising expected by a fanatical priest called the Mad Mullah in the Swat country, who attacked our outposts on the Malakhand; and some little time was required before they reported it and it was suppressed. Later again the chief area of trouble was in the country of the Afridis a tribe who treacherously broke the terms of the compact which they themselves had voluntarily entered into with the Government in 1881, in the terms of which compact we had lived at peace with them ever since and had refrained from entering or interfering with their country. In the meantime the men of Chitral lived absolutely quiet. Sir William Harcourt, in one of his recent speeches, spoke about 70,000 British or Indian soldiers being entangled at the present moment in the defiles of the Hindu Kush. I wish our public men would provide themselves with atlases. It would prevent them making a number of bad geographical mistakes. There is not a single British or Indian soldier engaged in this campaign within 100 miles of the Hindu-Kush, and there has been no rebellion in the Hindu-Kush there might have been some grounds for saying that it was due to our policy in Chitral. But the whole Hindu-Kush and Chitral remained perfectly quiet, and the charge, therefore that our policy as regards Chitral had been responsible for the present rising is, I think, self-condemned. I go on to ask you whether the decision to remain was right or wrong in itself. Mr. Asquith, in one of his speeches in Scotland—at Ladybank—used these words, "We resolved to go from Chitral, because Chitral and the way to Chitral is of no value whatever to any human being, and least of all to the British Empire"; and a few days ago Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, at Dunfermline, is now that the present Government decided in the teeth of the explicit advice and opinion of the highest military authorities, whether British or Indian, who were entirely in support of the withdrawal from Chitral. When I read those passages I rubbed my eyes. "Chitral of no value to any human being." The highest Indian military authorities supported the withdrawal from Chitral." Allow me to tell you who the great military authorities in India were who said that Chitral was of such supreme strategical importance that under no conditions ought we to leave it. This was the opinion in the first place—and I speak from knowledge in so far as I say—of three successive British agents at Gilgit, under whose jurisdiction Chitral is, it was the opinion of four successive British residents in Kashmir, it was the opinion of two successive Viceroys to India—Lord Lansdowne and Lord Elgin—it was

THE OPINION OF THREE SUCCESSIVE COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF

of the Indian Army, Lord Roberts, Sir George White and Sir William Lockhart—who may, I imagine, be supposed to know a little about strategy—it was the opinion of the military member of the Viceroy's Council General, Sir Henry Brackenbury, it was the opinion of every member without exception of the Viceroy's Council, it was the opinion of every man of eminence, military or civilian, with I believe, one possible exception, who has ever been to Chitral, and until Mr. Asquith and Mr. Morley arose to revise our ideas of strategy, it was the opinion of the Liberal party itself. Then—would you believe it?—it was a Liberal Government that in 1885 first sent a British mission to Chitral! It was a Liberal Government, of which Mr. Asquith was himself a member, that in 1893 sanctioned a British officer and escort being stationed in Chitral. It was a Liberal Secretary of State and a colleague of Mr. Asquith, Lord Kimberley, who wrote in September, 1893, that "it is a matter of importance to us to be able to control the external affairs of Chitral." This place, which is of no value whatsoever to any human being! Finally, I have a piece of evidence which is even more interesting still. When I was in India in October, 1894, the rumour that retirement was contemplated by the British Government had already reached that place, and it was alleged that this intention had been suspended for one year. The ruler of the country, who was afterwards murdered was in positive dismay at this news; and he implored me to convey his petition to the British Government and the English people that British authority should not be withdrawn from his country, because if it were withdrawn anarchy and chaos must inevitably ensue. I wrote in this sense very strongly to the *Times*, for which I was acting as correspondent, and the *Times* backed me up in an equally strong leader. You will find that the *Times* of Dec. 29, 1894, published the following statement, which had come to it from official sources:—"We are glad to learn that there is, for the present at least, no longer any danger of our hold on the Hindu-Kush being weakened by withdrawal from Chitral. The idea of withdrawal was, it seems as one time seriously considered, and found favour in certain influential quarters; but the proposal was never sanctioned by the Secretary of State (that is, Sir Henry Fowler), nor does it find favour, if we are correctly informed, with the present Viceroy." So that in December, 1894, not only was the great army of military authorities, but the Secretary of State himself—Sir Henry Fowler—in favour of keeping this position, which was "of no value whatever to a single human being." Now, why did the Liberal Government originally take us to Chitral, and why were those eminent authorities in favour of staying? Let me endeavour to answer that question. On the north the frontier of the Indian Empire consists of perhaps the most prodigious mountain barrier in the world—namely, the main range of the Hindu-Kush. This is the true physical and political boundary of India, beyond which no British Government has ever attempted, or, in my opinion, should ever desire to go, I really believe, when I read these speeches in the papers that many of our opponents think that Chitral runs beyond this frontier range, and that it is in some fantastic excursion or wild-goose chase that a force has been sent across the frontier in that direction. That is not the case. Chitral is upon this side of the frontier, and the fort of Chitral is about forty miles from the crest of the Hindu-Kush. The most remarkable feature about the situation is that the great range, extending for hundreds of miles, is only capable of being crossed by an armed force at two points. By both of them easy access is gained to the Chitral fort and thence down the Chitral river for about 200 miles into British India itself.

RUSSIA AND THE PAMIRS.

It is its position, which may be compared to the apex or point of the capital letter V, that constitutes the extreme strategical importance of Chitral. I ask you, Would it not have been a most strange and inexplicable thing if, at the same time that we were holding on the whole of this great line of mountains, we had withdrawn from the point at which those mountains were vulnerable? Would it not have been regarded as a fatal mark of weakness on our part? Would it not have been interpreted as a temptation, almost as an invitation, to our rivals to advance? Mr. Asquith agrees that, after we had concluded what is called the Pamir agreement with Russia, we need have entertained no such fears. From the same facts I draw myself an entirely opposite conclusion. By the Pamir agreement the late Government ceded to Russian influence the districts which is known as the Northern and the Central Pamirs. By the Pamir agreement the influence of Russia was brought down to the main stream of the Oxus, and her soldiers were placed within sight of this great range of the Hindu-Kush. There are always rash spirits in the Russian Army, just as there are in any army in the world, who are not scrupulously bound by diplomatic or other engagements, and if at the very moment that we had given this great extension of influence to Russia—if at the very moment we had brought her to one side of the Hindu-Kush, we had ourselves withdrawn from the first important station on the otherside, would not the inference have been irresistible, not merely, to a Russian, but to any one else, that this country, which we had abandoned, was open to any alien influence that chose to establish itself therein? You must know that in that part of the world none of these small States are strong enough to stand alone; they all have to look to and lean on some greater Power. There are only two great Powers that neighbourhood—Great Britain and Russia—and every small State looks either to Great Britain or to Russia, so that the moment one party retires from the scene and surrenders influence, it is practically an acknowledgement that the other party has a right to take its place. Then I say, if we had evacuated Chitral, we should have given an impression of weakness that would have been fatal to our prestige on the whole of the frontier. We should have been guilty of the moral dishonour of abandoning those who have stood by our side in the conflict, and we should have invited, almost have compelled, the intrusion of an alien influence inside the gates of India. Mr. Asquith and his friends argue that our retreat would, on the contrary, have been a demonstration of our friendly confidence in the intentions of Russia. I ask, have the Russians shown the same confidence? When the agreement was completed did they themselves withdraw? No, they pushed forward their outposts, and they planted new outposts right up to the line of the frontier which they occupied, without blaming them; they were entirely in their rights and I am not certain that they were not right to do it. But had we gone back at the moment that they were going forward not only should we have taken a step that would have had the consequences in that region that I have just been describing, but it would have been one more of that long and unbroken series of retreats for which the Liberal party will ever be memorable in history—acts like the evacuation of the Sudan, acts like the peace with the Boers after Majuba Hill, for which one party alone is responsible, and for which the country and the honour of the country have to suffer.

THE RETENTION OF CHITRAL.

I do not hesitate, therefore, to affirm that the act of the present Government in remaining in Chitral was a wise and a necessary act; that if the same decision came before the Cabinet again the same result would be arrived at; and that if the Liberals came into power to-morrow I do not carry into practice the principles which they now profess, or evacuate the position which they now so strongly condemn. But it may be said, "If you deny that this rising was due to your policy in Chitral, to what was it due and how is it to be explained?" I think it cannot be doubted that many causes have been at work. Local fanaticism, roused to fury by the imprecations of fiery preachers, the consciousness that India is in trouble from pestilence and famine, the recrudescence of Mohammedan temper arising from Mohammedan successes in other parts of the world—all these causes may have had something to do with it. I do not deny, however, that the steady infringement of a forward and active Government upon communities in a less civilised and in a more turbulent state of existence must, from time to time, provoke these explosions. But there is also in the special circumstances of this case a reason about which I note that Radical speakers are discreetly silent, but to which I must now invite your attention. As you know, the political object of the mission that is due to the forward policy, as it is called, was the interference with the independence of the tribes that this rebellion has arisen, but the remarkable thing is that the most recent encroachment upon those tribes has been due to the late Government itself. In 1893 Sir Mortimer Durand, who at that time was Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, went up to Kabul to negotiate an agreement with the Amir. He was there a little time before I was at Kabul as the guest of the Amir himself, and I heard all about it. Under the agreement he concluded with the Amir a line was drawn on the map between British and Afghan dominions, all the tribes on one side falling under the British, and all those planted upon the other side under the Afghan sphere of influence. I do not discuss whether that was or was not a wise arrangement. No doubt there is a great deal to be said on both sides, but perhaps I do not know enough about it to pronounce a definite opinion. But under this arrangement it is certain that the greater part of the Mohmand tribe, the Bajour tribe, the Orakzais and the Waziris, the very people with whom we are now fighting this tremendous combat, were included in the British sphere, and when they went to Kabul the other day to appeal for the assistence of the Amir he referred to this agreement, and brushed them on one side, and said, "You have no longer anything to do with us. It is not right for me to speak, but I may say that the agreement was concluded by Lord Lansdowne. Remember we have the new theory that it is not the Viceroy who is responsible; it is always the Home Government that bears the exclusive responsibility, and therefore it is certain that the whole responsibility of this act rests, not with Lord Lansdowne, but with the Government in Downing Street; and if you ask anyone who knows anything about those frontier troops and the present outbreak, he will tell you that it is the suspicions excited by the agreement and the consciousness that they have been finally included within the British sphere that have been in the main responsible for the outbreak among the tribes I have just mentioned. It seems to me a curious comment upon the platform philippics of Radical orators, and upon their protestations to prove that the whole bloodguiltiness rests upon the heads of the wicked Tories, to find that the most notable illustrations of the forward policy is one for which they are themselves responsible, and that this has been the determining factor in recent event.

RADICAL INCONSISTENCY.

But I should like to go on to show you that this is no new phenomenon. On the contrary, as is always the case, the Radical party have very often denounced in opposition the principles of foreign policy which they, perhaps somewhat reluctantly, adopt when in office. I remember very well when they were last in Opposition we heard a good deal about our pledges as regards Egypt and about the necessity of evacuating that country, but when they came into power the only steps they took towards evacuating were to increase the British garrison by a thousand men. So it has been in India. I assert that the majority of forward move in India have been made by the Liberal Administrations, and I think they were right in making them. Sir William Harcourt said the other day that the old and sound policy of Lord Lawrence of remaining in the Indian valleys and not getting entangled in the mountainous regions beyond had broken down under the policy of Lord Lytton in 1878. No, it was broken down as a much earlier date than that, and it was broken down by Lord Lawrence himself. In 1855 that great man, who was then John Lawrence, the Chief Commissioner of the Punjab, made his first treaty with the Amir of Afghanistan, under which he engaged, on behalf of the East India Company, to respect the territories of Afghanistan and never to interfere therein. That was the old Lawrence policy; but in less than two years—in January, 1857—the same Sir John Lawrence concluded our treaty with the same Amir of Afghanistan, in which he undertook to give him twelve lakhs of rupees a year and to send four British officers, with suitable establishments and orderlies, at the pleasure of the British Government to Kabul, or Kandhar, or Balkh, or all three places, or wherever Afghans might be assembled to act against Persia. That was the new policy; and again in 1868 the same Sir John Lawrence, now Lord Lawrence, the Governor-General of India, entered into fresh pledges and engagements with Sher Ali, the Amir of that time of Afghanistan; and I remember the late Sir Henry Rawlinson, who was the greatest authority upon Central Asian affairs this country has ever produced, said that the policy of masterly inactivity was killed by Lord Lawrence himself in 1868. If we go on we shall find, too, that the majority of the forward moves beyond the Indus valley and all the engagements, pledges, or responsibilities beyond have been taken by Liberal Governments. In 1881 it was Lord Ripon who gave a guarantee against external aggressions of the territories of the present Amir. In 1883 it was a Liberal Government who were compelled to recommence the Bolan Railway, which they had foolishly taken up, and who took Quetta and Sibi into the British dominions—posts which were advanced several hundred miles beyond the Indus valley. In 1884 it was a Liberal Government who sent a British Resident for the first time to Kashmir. In 1885 it was a Liberal Government who first sent Sir William Lockhart to Chitral. In the same year you remember how near we were to war with Russia, not for anything that was happening in India itself, but for something that was happening in a place called Penjdeh, on the extreme outskirts of Afghanistan, over 500 miles from the existing frontier; and you also remember the famous speech of Mr. Gladstone, when he came down to the House of Commons and asked for a credit of £11,000,000 for a war with Russia, which seemed at the moment to be certain. In 1894 by a Liberal Government Sir William Lockhart was sent on a mission to the Waziris, the imperfect results of which are partially responsible for the troubles to-day. I have not given you these long and tedious details because I desire to taunt our opponents. Far from it. I think that these steps were almost without exception wise, but I say that it does not lie in their mouths to accuse us of being the sole monopolists of advance, and claim that they are only oracles of political caution and wisdom, and this brings me to the last point on which I desire to ask your attention and it is this—that the alleged antagonism between the two policies on which I have been speaking is not a real antagonism. It is a platform, but it is not a practicable distinction. The policy of Lord Lawrance, the old Indus valley policy, as it was called no longer exists. It was a wise and a statesmanlike policy at the time, but that time is long past. It is removed by several hundreds, nay, even by thousands, of miles from your own, and when you were quit of any engagements as regards Afghanistan. It is no longer a wise, it is not even a practicable, policy now that you have entered into binding engagements with Afghanistan, and now that the Cossack is knocking at our gates. What, I would like to ask, is the good of talking about the Indus valley, when you have entered into engagements to protect the Afghan frontiers? The Afghan frontiers are not in the Indus valley, they are on the Oxus.

"WILD AND FOOLISH VIEWS."

But, in my opinion, there is in reality only one policy to which both parties and the Viceroys of both parties are practically pledged. I care not by what name you call it. It is sometimes called the forward policy with the view of exciting the odium of political audiences. Never mind the name; surely the important thing is that you should have a single policy which, away from our party squabbles at home, those who are sustaining the honour and credit of the Empire are to adopt abroad. What, then, is this policy, which, I say, is the sole policy of the Indian Government? First let me say what it is not. I must protest against the description of it which was given by Sir Henry Fowler in the weighty and able speech which he made about a fortnight ago. He then said, of the forward policy, "its advocates maintain that our frontier should be extended until they touch the frontiers of Russia and Afghanistan. They consider that the tribes which occupy the vast region of mountains and deserts which lie between us and the neighbouring Powers should be subjugated and this country annexed." No; that is not a true definition. There is no one that I know who is capable of holding such wild and foolish views. Why should we annex the country of these people? We have not annexed Gilgit or Hunza or Chitral. We have never annexed the Khaibar Pass. We did not even annex Kashmir when it fell into our hands fifty years ago. On the contrary, rather than annex it, we sold it—and I believe made a very bad bargain—to the Maharajah of Jammu. In the majority of cases annexation is a blunder. You offend the pride of those whose country you are taking, you are making yourselves responsible for settling in a new and unfamiliar sphere of that which you have knocked down, and you very likely entail upon yourselves endless financial burdens in the future. Why, the spectre of annexation is one, the recrementation of which almost frightens the India Government out of its wits, and it is only in the last resort in cases of dire necessity and under extreme pressure, as in the instance of Upper Burma, that the Indian Government could ever be induced to annex. If the forward policy does not therefore consist in annexation, and I repudiate the definition, what does it mean? Its principle I take to be that the command of the passes into Indian territory is essential to the security of India. That is why a Liberal Government took possession of the Khaibar Pass, that made the arrangements which I have described for the opening of the Khaibar Pass. That is why a Conservative Government planted your forces in Hunza and in Gilgit, and why a Conservative Government declined also to evacuate Chitral. Those are the passes of three Empires, and without our knowledge and behind our backs none can go there. Beyond those barriers we do not want to go. Nature has herself fixed these great boundaries to the Indian Empire, which it would be folly to overleap or ignore. Up to them our influence must extend. We do not require to annex; we do not need to interfere with the Governments, with the ruling families, or the religions, or the customs of these native tribesmen; we do not want to substitute for their rude form of government the inflexible and often unsuitable rigour of our Indian system, but up to those limits and over those tribes we must exercise political control. They must be our men and submit to our Paramount Power. They must look to the British Sovereign as the suzerain, and to the British flag for their protection. We must be in a position to prevent them coming down and harrying, and burning, and plundering the defenceless people who live within our border. We paid them to guard their own roads and to repress robbery and petty crimes in their own country. It was under this system that the men of the Khaibar, guarded the Khaibar, and the men of Kohat guarded the pass of Kohat. It was under this system that the levies of Dir and Swat were made guardians of the military road, of which I have spoken so much this evening.

THE LOYALTY OF THE TRIBES.

Public opinion in England, I believe, sometimes depicts the Indian frontier as a long line of forts bristling with cannon, and with the familiar features of Mr. Thomas Atkins in a red tunic, with a bayonet in his hand and a rifle planted upon his knee. I have travelled many hundreds, nay, I may say thousands, of miles, on the Indian frontier, and I have seen very little of Mr. Thomas Atkins, but I have seen a great deal of those native tribesmen. I have marched with them, I have lived with them, I have had them guard my tent at night. They are brave and intelligent soldiers, and their love of country, and it is through them and through them alone that you can hope to retain your influence. I should like to ask the critics of the present system whether they are aware how many splendid recruits these very tribesmen whom we are accused of alienating contribute to the Indian army. I have talked to the men about the present fighting and the fighting that is going on with the Afridis and Orakzais. There are at the present moment in the Indian army no fewer than 2,870 Afridis and Orakzais, and there are 1,900 members of the various mountain tribes along that border, and you may have read in the paper that, when the Afridi outbreak occurred in the neighbourhood of Khaibar Pass, the native levies, the Afridis themselves who had been placed there in charge of the fort of Lundi Kotal, where I remember very well passing a night myself—that these men, when attacked by thousands of their comrades, stood firm to the British flag, that for a whole day they held out, and when at length the gates were treacherously opened and their fellow-countrymen came in, instead of making terms with the conquerors, instead of retiring to their homes or joining their own people, these loyal fellows marched down and reported themselves to the British commander at Peshawar. I say a policy that can produce results such as that cannot be altogether a bad policy, and you may depend upon it if you abandon it you will suffer for the consequences. I have detained you a long time this evening and I thank you for your patience. ("Go on!") My object in making a speech upon this question alone to-night has been in the first place, to repel the calumnies, invented, as it appears to me, for party purposes, which have been directed against the present Government; secondly, to show that the policy which we are pursuing is one to which both parties of the State, both in India and at home, are equally pledged; and, in the third place, to show that in that policy the security of your Indian Empire consists. To me I confess that the subject of India is very sacred. The possession involves so great responsibilities, and its safety ought to be so paramount a care. I am distressed when I hear any Indian question squabbled about on English platforms, as though it were a question of agricultural rating or of electoral reform, and I hope that, when the dusts of the present controversy are laid and when the clear-cut lines can be seen, men of both parties will cease these inconsequent and unhappy divisions, and will join hands together, not to endeavour to prove that each other is in the wrong, but in order to do to India that which is right. (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

AN INDIAN PRINCE AND HIS WIFE.

THE Judicial Committee of the Privy Council had before them, on Dec. 8, the case of "Prince Suleman Kadar Bahadur v. Nawab Mehndi, alias Suraiya Bahu." This was an appeal from a decision of the Judicial Commissioner of Oudh, the appellant being the fourth son of the fourth King of Oudh, and the respondent his wife. The question in the suit was who was the reabowner of certain houses, including a mansion and grounds and other property in Lucknow, which were purchased whilst the Prince and his wife were living amicably together. The respondent gave evidence to the effect that she paid Rs. 11,000 to her husband, and that Rs. 10,000 of the amount was held for her by her aunt, who forwarded the amount direct to the Prince. The respondent did not, however, call her aunt, and their lordships did not feel inclined to accept her own evidence without corroboration, except of a witness described by the judge who tried the case in the first instance as "most shifty and unsatisfactory." The evidence as to possession their lordships considered to be vague and unsatisfactory on both sides, and though the balance appeared to be in favour of the respondent, they considered there was not such an amount of possession proved as to affect the question either way, and therefore the order appealed for would be reversed, with costs.

LORD LANSDOWNE AND THE ARMY.

LORD LANSDOWNE, speaking on December 9 at a Primrose League meeting in Edinburgh, devoted his remarks to the question of the Army. After enumerating various measures for the strengthening of the Army and the improvement of its efficiency which had been passed since the present Government came into office, he observed that the War Office was the most criticised department in the public service; the misfortune was that the criticism was purely destructive. Our military system was singularly complicated and had grown up on no definite plan, and we were the only great Power in the world, except the United States, which depended on voluntary recruitment. Then our military requirements differed from those of every other nation. We required a sufficient garrison for the defence of these islands, ability to mobilise two Army corps for offensive purposes outside the British islands, and also the ability, without general mobilisation, to despatch small bodies of men to meet the minor emergencies with which we were so constantly confronted. Finally, we had to provide our Indian and colonial garrisons—an obligation which compelled us to keep permanently on a war footing more than half our Army. In these circumstances it was inevitable that the military system should be complicated; but its underlying essential principles were simple and sound. They were that for the greater part of the Army the term of service should be of moderate length, such as would yield an adequate Reserve; that the infantry battalions abroad should be supported by an adequate number of properly organised battalions at home capable of supplying the necessary drafts; and that there should be a territorial connection between the country and the Army.

After defending these principles on both military and economic grounds, Lord Lansdowne proceeded to meet some of the detailed criticisms on the present state of the Army. He said that of 18,000 British infantry now serving in the Tirah force only 330 had less than two years' service, while 13,000 had over four years' service. Even the home battalions, although they contained more young men than they used to have, contained on an average as many men over twenty years of age as in the time of longservice. On Nov. 1 there was only one of these battalions which they could not raise to war strength by replacing the men of under twenty years of age by its own Reservists, and this process would not nearly exhaust the number of Reservists available. He cited facts and figures to show that the Reserve is not, as sometimes alleged, a "bogus" one. The whole cost of the First Class Army Reserve was 700,000*l.* a year, for which we had 80,000 seasoned soldiers; for the same money we could keep less than 13,000 men with the colours. That was not a bad bargain for the nation. While a stauch supporter of the present system, he admited that it had its weak points—that the War Office was finding increasing difficulty in providing both for the normal wants of the empire and for the special calls which came upon them with increasing frequency. This was largely due to the fact that we had not sufficiently realised that the growth of the empire was bound to involve an increase in the strength of the Army both abroad and at home. By way of remedying deficiencies in organisation he hoped to be able to organise the Infantry largely in groups of four instead of two battalions, and to enter into a special contract with a portion of the Reservists to rejoin the colours, if required, for actual warlike operations which might not necessitate the calling out of the whole Reserve.

As to the quality of the recruits, many of them were younger and more immature than could be wished, but if they raised the age limit it was more than doubtful whether they would get the men. He thought the remedy was to be found in continuing to take young recruits, but returning them as boys, and not including them in the effective strength of the battalions till they had reached a certain age. It might be that we should ultimately be driven to the adoption of compulsory service, but he trusted that before that alternative was accepted efforts would be made to increase the inducements to young men to enter the Army and to better the provision for their subsequent employment in civil life. That question of an increase of pay so as to give a clear shilling a day to every fully-qualified soldier was under consideration, as well as a plan for enlisting some of our soldiers for three years' service only, with the option of entering the Reserve or extending their service with the colours. After dwelling on the necessity for caution in experiments of this kind, Lord Lansdowne closed by disputing the frequent allegations as to extravagance in the management of the Army.

THE P. AND O. STEAMER CLYDE.

HEROISM OF THE CREW.

THE P. and O. steamer Clyde, Captain Ernest Gordon, arrived at Malta on Dec. 9 at 6 a.m. from Marseilles, all well, but four days overdue. She left with 150 passengers at 2 p.m. for Alexandria.

The Malta correspondent of the *Daily News* writes:—I am indebted to Mr. W. J. E. Herbert, who, with his wife, was a passenger, for the following graphic details of the storm which proved so bad an experience to all on board.

The mistral sprung up at about two o'clock on Saturday, the 4th, when we were in the Gulf of Lyons. It increased in violence, and continued all Sunday, and after a black and terrible night, reached its climax in a furious and terrific hurricane at daybreak on Monday morning.

The ship was unable to pass the Straits of Bonifacio on Saturday night, and framed her course south of Sardinia, where she remained hove-to till midday on Tuesday. The captain, who feared returning to Marseilles again, then got on the course for Malta. The critical moment was at daybreak on Monday morning, when the fore-topsail, which had been given way and been repaired, again failed and left the ship at the mercy of waves and dashing about in the trough of the sea. At this juncture the cry of "All hands on deck" struck terror to the hearts of all, unnerved as they already were, and the rush of passengers on deck fortunately only increased the confusion. Crew and passengers rushed on deck with blankets, called for to wedge in the steering gear, which had become a source of danger. Crockery, loose articles on the deck and in the saloons and cabins, were dashed about amid indescribable confusion and noise. The flapping storm sails were next blown away, and one large sail broke loose, and dashed about from side to side of the ship, tearing up the deck and smashing the side rails. The chief officer's cabin was wrecked, a boat was carried away, and further considerable damage was done.

It is impossible to over-estimate the gallantry of captain, officers, and crew. Mr. H. S. Bradshaw, the chief officer, is cool and determined, and was conspicuous throughout. The good old Clyde behaved magnificently, and in spite of her weight of years could give points to more modern ships. The stewards responded manfully to the calls upon their help. At the critical moment the Lascars stuck steadily to their work, and well-deserved recognition was given them by the passengers. The almost entire absence of pan

DR. SVEN HEDIN'S TRAVELS.

BEFORE leaving London Dr. Sven Hedin, the eminent Swedish traveller, gave to Reuter's representative who called on him some further account of his remarkable journey in Central Asia :—

Altogether (said Dr. Sven Hedin) my journey occupied forty-three months, during which period I travelled about 12,000 English miles. I enjoyed good health all the time, and only lost two men. I started alone from Stockholm on Oct. 10, 1893, and so far as Europeans were concerned, was alone on my travels until I reached home this year. From Stockholm I proceeded to St. Petersburg, thence by rail to Orenburg, where I made my final preparations for crossing the Kirgiz Steppes. I there bought my tarantass, in which I travelled 1,300 miles over the steppes without interruption.

After crossing the steppes it took nineteen days to reach Tashkent. There I halted for a time, but a fortnight later arrived at Margilan, the capital of Ferghana. The real journey commenced from this point. On Feb. 23, 1894, I left Margilan with a caravan of four men and twelve horses, my first object being to cross the Pamirs and reach the Russian garrison at Pamirski Post twenty-four days distant across the mountains. The journey was a most dangerous one owing to the snowstorms, and the Russians tried to dissuade me from making it, pointing out that it had never been attempted by Europeans so early in the year. I reached the Pamirski Post on March 20, and had much-needed rest of three weeks, during which time I received the greatest kindness at the Russian fortress.

Crossing the Chinese frontier, I proceeded to Kashgar, where I remained, and in the summer of 1894 attempted the ascent of Mus Tag Ata, the loftiest mountain in the Pamirs, 25,000 feet high, which had never been ascended, even by the natives. I got to an altitude of 20,000 feet, but found it impossible to get higher. In the company of five Kirghiz I camped for the night at this altitude. We all suffered much from mountain sickness and were unable to touch food, and we also had considerable palpitation and violent headache. The mountain was not very steep, but crevasses abounded, and the terrific snowstorms and avalanches proved too much for us.

In February 1895, with a new caravan, I proceeded direct to Yarkand. Daris, where I got eight camels. From this point I started to cross the great sand desert of Takla Makan, 200 miles across, which had never been crossed before. There two of my men died and seven of my camels, and I do not think any of us ever expected to live through what we experienced. This desert may, indeed, be described as the abomination of desolation. It is a veritable sea of moving sand. We had to follow the crests of the waveliko dunes where the sand was more or less hard owing to the wind pressure. Between the dunes it would have been impossible to proceed; and as we had to follow the zigzag course of these waves there was not less than 600 miles of desert to cross. Black and yellow sandstorms followed one another at short intervals, and the hissing and wailing of the sand-wind was too weird and horrible for description. To add to our miseries, our water gave out, and we were compelled to drink sheep's blood mixed with vinegar and sugar. It was hard to have to kill our last sheep, which followed me like a dog, but he had so go. Matters were so bad that I told my men to save their lives at all hazards without regard to one another or to me. Two of them were left to die, and the rest of us only got through by little short of a miracle.

On May 6th, 1895, I got through the desert and reached Khotan Daria, in the centre of a dense forest, and remained eighteen days, at the expiration of which I returned to Kashgar by another road to get a new outfit. At the end of 1895 I went to Khotan—twenty-three days' journey along the caravan road—and from there crossed the desert in a northerly direction. It being winter there were no sandstorms, and the journey occupied forty-one days. It was in this desert that I found the ruins of two buried cities. Sticking out of the sand I saw portions of walls and houses, including some very large buildings, all built of poplar trees. This country must once have been very fertile, but the all-devouring sand had devastated and buried it. Calculating by the rate at which the sanddunes travel—about six feet per annum—these cities could not have been inhabited for at least 1,200 years. I returned to Sweden, *viâ* Margilan and Siberia.

THE HEALTH OF THE ARMY IN INDIA.

LADY HENRY SOMERSET AND MRS. JOSEPHINE BUTLER.

IN April last Lady Henry Somerset wrote to Lord George Hamilton, Secretary for India, relative to the measures proposed for dealing with the health of the Army in India, and submitted six propositions which in her opinion would meet the case, and which she advocated the Government to adopt. Many of Lady Henry's colleagues associated with her in the crusade against State regulation of vice disagreed with these six proposals *in toto*. Among these was Mrs. Josephine E. Butler, the superintendent of the Purity Branch of the American World's Women's Christian Temperance Union, of which organisation Lady Henry Somerset is British president. In consequence of Lady Henry's letter Mrs. Josephine Butler wrote to Miss Willard in America to say that unless the authorities of the W.W.C.T.U. could see their way to make an unequivocal and full pronouncement against the six propositions referred to she would be obliged to resign her office, as these proposals were in her view a form of State regulation of vice as bad as any she had spent her life in contesting. Correspondence ensued, and last week Mrs. Josephine Butler sent to Miss Willard a letter severing her connection with the Union. Herein she wrote :—

The rank and file of your vast army of women, although as true women, instinctively opposed to any regulation of sexual vice, are not wholly alive to the vital nature of the issue involved in the opposition of our abolitionist principles to the principles involved in the said six propositions. It is because the vital nature of that issue and the tremendous consequences involved in it are so clear to me and to my fellow-workers that I feel it necessary to emphasise my conviction in the matter by a public act of severance of our official relationship. I must continue to the end my own work in England and on the Continent of Europe. As a firm abolitionist an honorary president of the International Federation for abolishing all forms of regulation of vice I cannot appear before the public as the holder of an office in a union of which a promulgator of an extreme form of regulation is she vice-president. Such a position would admit neither of justification nor explanation.

MR. H. GLADSTONE ON INDIA.

MR. HERBERT GLADSTONE, M.P., addressing a meeting at Guildford, on Dec. 3, said that though the Liberal party was in a disastrous condition in the House of Commons, it was not in a disastrous condition in the country. What they had now to remember was that they must be Liberals first, and Home Rulers, Local Optionists, and Reformers of various kinds second. They must be solid before all things. With regard to the North-West frontier question, do not let them be led away by paying too much attention to the controversy about the breach of faith. It was an important matter on which responsible members of the last Government would have something to say next Session. But he suspected the Tories were very anxious to keep up this controversy in order to confuse the public mind and make the people think that after all they were not so far wrong in their policy. The liberals took their stand on the question of policy, and on that ground they said the annexation of Chitral was a great blunder, and was part of a frontier policy which had made the tribes suspicious of them, and had resulted in a combined rising among them which England knew to her cost. Glorious isolation summed up the great policy of Lord Salisbury and his colleagues in Europe—glorious isolation, and surely Europe muttering and threatening, having their own disputes among themselves, but showing a dangerous possibility of all uniting when the opportunity came against the common enemy—England. That was the result of their Conservative Government. He was thankful to say that the hopeless imposture of the European Concert was coming to an end. Nobody was better or stronger for the Concert of Europe, except the Sultan of Turkey, the greatest sinner in Europe.

THE SERVICES AT HOME.

INDIA OFFICE,—Dec. 10.

ARRIVALS REPORTED.

Mr H V Lovett, BCS	Mrs B B D Adams, Bo
Mr Mt. Dan[illegible], C S	[illegible]
Mr A G Hob[illegible]-Lamp-den, B	Major W L C Badcock
	Major J F Wilson
Mr H C Sanders, B	Capt G P Campbell
Mr G W Elphinstone, M C S	Capt R G Barton
	Capt F L Vincent
Mr J de C Atkins, Bo C S	Capt J M Fleming
Mr E Gray, Bo C S	Lieut F L Wood
Mr H M Gibbs, Bo	Surg-Capt D C Johnston
Mr T Summers, B	

GRANTED EXTENSION OF LEAVE.

Mr R A Simpson, B, 2mos	Capt J R Hill, 3 weeks
Mr F A Dene, M, 6 mos	Lieut H Coape-Smith
Mr C Muirhead, Bo, 3mos	Engr A Mackey
Lt-Col J F J Miller, 3 weeks.	Condr P Halpin

PERMITTED TO RETURN TO DUTY.

Mr W B Tompson, B C S	Capt W R Morton
Mr E B Peacock, B.	Capt H Saw
Mr S Tuff, B	Lieut W C Scott
Lt-Col C A Phillips	Lieut E G Jones
Lt-Col I de C Meade	Sec Lieut J A P Manson
Major G B Brownlow,	Assist-Surg J W Greahy
Major W H Lewin	Sub-Condr J Rowland
Capt J B Edwards	Sub-Condr J Bidwell
Capt F H B Commeline	

SKINNY MEN and WEAK WOMEN ! Don't despair ! PETER'S BRAIN PANACEA is far the best Tonic for you. Is an incomparable, peerless, and unrivalled invigorator of Health, Strength and Vigour of Mind and Body. At MADON, SONS and Co., Bombay.

TURKEY AND GREECE: PEACE TREATY SIGNED.

THE treaty of peace between Turkey and Greece was signed in Constantinople, on Dec. 4. The ratification will take place in fifteen days. The following is a summary of the Protocols signed on Dec. 4, by the Ottoman and Greek delegates, which gave rise to considerable discussion, whereby the signature of peace was greatly delayed :—The first protocol refers to Article 5 of the peace preliminaries, dealing with the special arrangements to be concluded between Turkey and Greece, with a view to guarding against abuse of consular immunities interfering with the regular course of justice. The protocol provides (1) For determining the limits of customs tariff, privileges, and consular immunities; (2) for assuring the execution of judgments pronounced by Ottoman tribunals upon Greek consuls in civil and commercial matters; (3) for laying down the conditions to be observed on the occasion of domiciliary visits made by the police ; (4) for recognising the jurisdiction of the Ottoman Court of Cassation ; (5) for declaring the Ottoman Courts competent in the case of commercial failures of Greek subjects, and also in criminal matters, in which Greeks and the subjects of other States are concerned ; (6) for assuring the execution by the Ottoman authorities of the judgments of Ottoman tribunals in mixed cases. The preceding stipulations constitute the Turkish demands which will be discussed at the time of the negotiations for the conclusion of the projected Consular Convention, and regarding which the Greek delegates have made formal reservations. The second protocol refers to the question of Commerce and Navigation, and stipulates that the regime in force before the war relating to the customs tariff, the coasting trade, and sponge fisheries shall be maintained reciprocally for a period of two years. If the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation has not been concluded at the expiration of that time, the two parties shall revert to the regime established under Article 7.

The *Times'* Constantinople correspondent has reason to believe that the French and Italian Ambassadors have acquiesced in the Russian nomination of the Montenegrin Vojvode, Bozo Petrovitch, as Governor of Crete, and that the representatives of the other Powers have referred the matter to their respective Governments.

THE CONDITION OF ARMENIA.

Lord Salisbury has communicated to the Duke of Westminster a long report from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the condition of Armenia. In this document Sir P. Currie says that the number of Armenians requiring help depends not only on the degree of the severity of the winter, but also on the extent to which the villages may have been deprived of their meagre resources by the more or less strict collection of current taxes and arrears of taxes, and on the amount of the depredation which has been committed by the Kurds during the past autumn. The condition of the peasantry in the Vilayet of Bitlis the harvest has been good, but owing to the wholesale burning and plundering by Kurds, it seems probable that the entire population of several villages will have to be maintained during the whole winter. In the province of Erzerum several hundred persons were rendered homeless and destitute in the month of September, owing to disastrous fires at Gemerik and Erzingjian. Donations, which will be remitted by telegraph, to Sir Philip Currie, for the relief of the sufferers, will be thankfully received by the Duke of Westminster, Grosvenor House, W.

A ROMANCE FROM THE PUNJAB.

ON Dec. 8 the case of "Skinner v. Skinner" came before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. This was an appeal by Major Robert Skinner (otherwise Sardar Mirza) and others v. Charlotte Skinner (alias Badshah Begum) from a decision of the Chief Court of the Punjab. Lord Watson, in delivering judgment said, it appeared that Stuart Skinner (otherwise known as Nawab Mirza) was, in May, 1855, married to the respondent, who was the daughter of Martin Blake of the Bengal Civil Service by Choti Begum, a Mohammedan woman. The ceremony of marriage was performed in the Protestant church at Meerut. The spouses were originally adherents of the Mohammedan faith ; but, in order to validate the marriage they previously became professing Christians. Stuart Skinner's family resided at Meerut on his marriage-day, and the woman was baptised some weeks earlier at Delhi. About the beginning of the Mutiny in 1857 both spouses reverted to Mohammedanism, and though they did not cohabit after 1859, they continued in the profession and practice of the Mohammedan faith until the death of Stuart Skinner, which took place at Delhi in 1880. After the parties reverted to Mohammedanism, they went through the form of a marriage according to Mohammedan law, and soon after Stuart Skinner left his wife owing to his suspicion that she was carrying on an illicit intercourse with Abdul Wahid. Afterwards the woman went to live with Abdul Wanid, to whom she bore several children. Before the separation two children, whose legitimacy is not impeached, had been born to the Skinners—a son and a daughter—both of whom survived their father. In 1871 Stuart Skinner began to cohabit with Sophia Skinner, whom he treated as his wife, and with whom he lived till his death. Six children were born, and they are the appellants in the present case. In 1888, sixteen months after the death of Stuart Skinner, Charlotte Blake, alias Badshah Begum, brought this suit, claiming one-third of the deceased's estate, or alternatively 50,000 rupees, which she alleged was the amount of her marriage dower, and one-eighth of the remaining estate according to Mohammedan law. The pleas for the defence on behalf of all the children of the deceased were that the plaintiff had no claim, as she had been divorced by Stuart Skinner, and that the deceased had left a will by which she was in any event excluded from the succession. The plaintiff disputed the execution of the will, and pleaded that even if duly executed it was inoperative in law. The District Judge held that the Christian marriage was valid, and could not be dissolved by a divorce according to Mohammedan law, and his estate must be administered by Mohammedan law, but as to the divorce the Chief held that there never had in fact been a divorce, and, therefore the office pots of the law as to the status of residents in India who changed their religion after marriage did not arise. Their Lordships had, therefore, come to the decision to advise Her Majesty to affirm the judgment appealed from, and to dismiss the appeal. No order as to costs.

THE LABOUR TROUBLES.

THE threatened strike in the cotton trade has been averted, the movement on the part of the employers for a 5 per cent. reduction of the wages of the operatives having elapsed.

The Engineering Conference adjourned on Dec. 4 for the purpose of allowing the employers proposals and those of the men's delegates being submitted to the vote of the men throughout the country for ratification or rejection. The proposals affect freedom of employment, piecework, overtime, the rating of workmen according to ability, apprentices, and the selection, and employment of operatives. In reference to the hours of labour, the men, in view of the increasing efficiency of labour due to improved machinery, claimed the introduction of an eight-hours day or forty-eight-hours week. The employers replied that they could not consent to any reduction of the hours of labour, chiefly on the ground that, in view of keen and increasing foreign competition, the trade of this country will not bear any increase in the cost of production. The leading officials of the various men's unions express their strong conviction that the men will, by a very large majority, reject the employers' proposals, as involving a sacrifice of the fundamental principles of trade unionism.

The value of our exports of machinery last month shows a decrease upon that for November, 1896, of nearly £208,000. The decrease upon the eleven months of 1897, compared with the same period in 1896, is £231,963. On the other hand, a Foreign Office report shows that the value of German machinery exports for the nine months of the present year ended Sept. 30 show an advance upon the corresponding period in 1896 of £475,000.

A letter addressed on Dec. 3 by the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants to the president of the Board of Trade, setting forth the circumstances of their present difference with the railway companies and asking for his intervention to bring about a conference between the men's and the companies' representatives has elicited an unfavourable reply, and the agitation appears to have collapsed. Mr. Maddison, M. P., editor of the *Railway Review*, whose editorial comments on the situation had been called in question by the Executive Committee of the railway men's society, has resigned his post on the paper named.

YOUR OLD FRIEND.—There is a sense of comfort in a good old friend, which no new friendship can supply. CLEAVER'S TEREBENE SOAP is your good old friend, for it has outstayed and beaten the hosts of Soaps which, during the last 25 years, have been introduced. And why is this ? Because it really possesses the properties claimed for it. It is the best Soap for the Skin and Complexion ever known. It completely relieves the irritation resulting from prickly heat, the bites and stings of insects, and other similar causes. Its perfume is simply that of the pine, the most soothing and healthgiving in the world.

VALUABLE DISCOVERY FOR THE HAIR.—If your hair is turning grey or white or is falling off, use "The Mexican Hair Renewer," for it will positively restore in every case, Grey or White hair, to its Original colour without leaving the disagreeable smell of most "Restorers." It makes the hair charmingly beautiful, as well as promoting the growth of the hair on bald spots, where the glands are not decayed. Ask your Chemists for "The Mexican Hair Renewer," sold by Chemists and Perfumers everywhere, at 3s. 6d. a bottle. Wholesale Depot : 55, Farrington Road, London.

GERMANY'S FOREIGN RELATIONS.

CHINA AND HAYTI.

A MARINE battalion of 1223 officers and men and 204 officers and men of the coast artillery are to be despached immediately from Germany to Kiao-chau Bay. When this force and Prince Henry's squadron arrive the full strength of the German forces will be 4555. This is the first occasion on which so large a German force has been sent beyond European waters. The German Foreign Secretary, in a speech in the Reichstag Dec. 6, touched on the pending difficulty with China. "The time," said Herr von Bulow, "is gone by when other nations can divide the earth and Germans reserve for themselves the sky. One of our first duties in East Asia is to foster the interest of our ships and trade. The negotiations which we are conducting treat both of the murder of the missionaries and a number of other complaints that we have against China. We hope they will come to a satisfactory conclusion. We cannot, however, consent to the opinion that the right of China thus things are permissible against us which would not be tolerated as against other powers. Our ships, our flag, our men of business, and our missionaries must be treated with the esteem accorded to those of other great Powers. We desire to put no one in the shade, but we intend to retain our place in the sun in East Asia and in the West Indies. We shall defend our interests in both parts of the world without unnecessary severity, but also without any display of weakness." The *Times'* Pekin correspondent telegraphed on Dec. 7 :—"China hoping for the evacuation of Kiao-chau, agrees unconditionally to all Germany's demands—namely, compensation for the families of the murdered missionaries, the erection of a memorial church at Tsi-ning-chau, on the Grand Canal, and an Imperial tablet at Kuye, the permanent degradation of Governor Li Ping Hing, Viceroy-elect of Szu-chuan, payment of the expenses of the occupation of Kaio-chau, and mining and railway privileges, not exclusive, in Shan-tung, similar in tenour to the first sentence of Article V. of the French Convention of June, 1895." The *Times'* Pekin correspondent telegraphed yesterday (Dec. 9) :—"The Tsung-li-Yamen has telegraphed to the Viceroy of Chi-li that, now that China has complied with her demands, Germany undertakes to evacuate Kiao-chau as a date to be fixed hereafter, and receives instead, as a coaling station, the inlet of Samsah in Fo-kien."

Two German cruisers arrived at Port au Prince on Dec. 6, and delivered an ultimatum demanding the payment within eight hours of an indemnity for the imprisonment of Herr Luders. In his speech before the Reichstag on Dec. 6, Herr von Bulow, the new Foreign Secretary, referring to Hayti, said :—"We have not been content with the liberation of Herr Luders. On the contrary, we consider it our right and our duty to demand satisfaction and reparation for the injustice done to a German subject, who on imprisonment was an equal degree contrary to the Haytian law, to the Constitution of Hayti, and to the law of nations. I entertain the hope that the Haytian Government will no longer hesitate to accede to our just and moderate demands. I cherish this expectation with the greater readiness and assurance because we have not only right on our side, but have also the will and the power to enforce our rights. Apart from the Haytian Question," he declared, "Hayti has completely submitted to the German claims. The following (telegraphed from Berlin on Dec. 8) is the German official account of the settlement of the Hayti incident :—" After the ultimatum containing the German demands had been presented, the ship Stein cleared for action and moved into a position in the immediate vicinity of the Haytian ships of war and of the town of Port au Prince. The request from a diplomatic quarter for delay in carrying the ultimatum into effect was rejected. On Dec. 6, at 12-25 p.m., half-an-hour before the expiration of the appointed term, all the demands of the ultimatum were agreed to by the President of the Republic of Hayti. The demanded sum of 30,000 dollars for Herr Luders was on board the training-ship Charlotte before four o'clock in the afternoon. Soon afterwards the letter of apology which had been demanded from the Haytian Government likewise arrived. It was followed by the firing of a salute. After the fulfilment of the German demands tranquility prevailed. The persons who had taken refuge on the ships returned to the town. The German Charge d'Affaires has gone ashore."

A Hamburg journal states that the British Government recently inquired in Berlin whether Germany would be inclined to cede to great Britain the protectorate over New Guinea, and that the answer was a decided refusal to entertain the idea.

In the debate on the first reading of the Navy Bill in the Reichstag Dec. 8 Prince Hohenlohe, the Imperial Chancellor, read a statement in which he said that Germany absolutely required an efficient navy to maintain the position gained for her by her army. The Federal Governments considered it an imperative necessity that the navy should be strengthened and its strength fixed by legislative enactment. The bill, no doubt, demanded a certain sacrifice from the Reichstag, but he refused to admit that it impaired the control of the Budget. He repudiated any idea of a policy of adventure or any intention of entering into rivalry with maritime Powers of the first rank ; and he asked for the adoption of the bill for the welfare of the Fatherland. Admiral Tirpitz, Minister of Marine, followed with a speech in which he explained the details of the bill and urged the necessity for its enactment. One little item in the German Budget consists of an addition of 11,000,000 marks to the Army Estimates to provide the German soldier with a hot supper.

INDIAN DIVORCE SUIT.

IN the Divorce Division, on Dec. 2, Sir Francis Jeune (President) had before him the case of "Salmon v. Salmon and Baldwin." The petitioner, Alexander M'Donald Salmon, sought for a dissolution of his marriage with Emily Salmon on the ground of her misconduct with Captain Baldwin. Mr. Inderwick, Q.C., and Mr. Lipscomb appeared for the petitioner. It appeared the parties were married on Sept 30, 1882, at Bankipore, in India, and there had been three children of the marriage. In March, 1896, the respondent came to England on a visit, leaving her husband in India, where his duties in the Civil Service compelled him to remain. From the date of Mrs. Salmon's departure the petitioner regularly received letters from his wife in affectionate terms until July 28 of this year, when he received a letter in the following terms :—"Reading, July 8.—My dear Alec,—I am afraid that this letter may be a very great shock to you at first, though afterwards I hope that you may come to see that what I have done is best for us both. The fact is, I have decided to leave you, and I am now living here with Captain Baldwin, whom I care for very much, and who has always been so good to me. You and I have been so utterly miserable to gether for many years that after much thought I think you will feel far happier without me. We have tried over and over again to live happily together, but have only succeeded in becoming more and more utterly wretched, and I could never have borne to live with you again. My life was too awful when I was with you. I am very, very sorry if I hurt you, but you have often told me I was no wife to you and I was dead. I am very grieved for the poor children, and I hope for their and every one's sake that you will come home as soon as you can and divorce me as quietly as possible, in which case there need be no scandal at all. If you want to write to me please do so to King's as usual, and please forgive me if this makes you unhappy.—Emily." Immediately on receipt of this, Mr. Salmon applied to headquarters for leave for three months, and came to this country to institute these proceedings. Unfortunately, his leave had expired before the case was reached, and therefore his evidence had been taken on commission. Evidence was then given that the respondent and co-respondent had taken apartments at Reading, and his Lordship said that, subject to formal evidence of the marriage in India being given, there must be a decree nisi with costs against the co-respondent, and also the custody of the children would be granted to petitioner.

LIEUTENANT PEARY'S ARCTIC PROJECTS.

THE theatre at Burlington House was thronged, on Dec. 6, by a crowded audience eager to hear Lieutenant Peary's accounts of his exploration in Greenland. The chair was taken by Sir Clements Markham, F.R.S., the President of the Royal Geographical Society, and among those present were Mrs. Peary, General Sir H Norman, Lord Belhaven, Admiral Sir L M'Clintock, Mr. F. A. Jackson, Mr. W. J. Ward, the Hon. G. C. Brodrick, Admiral Sir E. Commaney, General Sir C. W. Wilson, Sir G. Robertson, Sir Allen Young, the Danish Minister, the Bolivian Minister, and Sir Martin Conway. Lieutenant Peary, who received a very cordial welcome, commenced by describing with the assistance of a map the character of Greenland. He next dealt with the subject of his coming expedition to the Pole. His scheme was to take possession of every point that could be held, and go on as far as possible. If the conditions were unfavourable, he would come back to the Esquimalt colony, and start again the next spring. He believed that at one time or another the favourable moment would arrive when the door to the Pole would be open, and he believed he should find it so during the five years he was prepared to spend there. (Cheers.) Lieutenant Peary then showed a number of lantern slides illustrating his Arctic travels Esquimaux life, and the fauna and flora of those regions. In concluding his address he said he agreed with the view of the President, that the Esquimaux originally crossed the Siberian straits, and mentioned, as a curious incident, that one girl whom his wife brought back with her to America was recognised by the Chinese in Washington as one of their race one day when she was walking in the streets, but of course they had no affinity in language. He said it would be most interesting if, with the aid of these Whalesound E-quimaux, a white man was enabled to cross the Pole, a journey performed by their forefathers ages ago.—The President, in the course of some remarks later, said the Arctic Highlanders were the only people in the world completely pure in blood and completely isolated.

THE *LONDON GAZETTE*.

THE ARMY.

WAR OFFICE, PALL-MALL, DEC. 7.

7th Dragoon Guards—Ridingmaster and Hon Capt H R J Willis, from 3rd Hussars to be Ridingmaster, vice Hon Capt L Cunningham, retired.

3rd Hussars—Sec Lieut W O Cautley resigns his commission. Squadron Sergt-Major Rough-Rider C E Hann, from 12th Lancers, to be Ridingmaster, with the honorary rank of Lieutenant, vice Hon Capt H R J Willis, transferred to 7th Dragoon Guards.

16th Hussars—Lieut F F Fenton is seconded for service under the Foreign Office.

12th Lancers—Major D S W Earl of Airlie, from 2nd Dragoon Guards, to be Lieutenant-Colonel, vice T A Hill retired.

Royal Engineers—The promotion to the rank of Major of Capt H B Roberts is antedated to Nov 19, 1897, vice G H B Gordon, deceased. Capt E Townshend to be Major, vice J Keille, promoted. The following Lieutenants to be Captains :—A E G Watherston, vice H B Roberts, and E H Haig, vice E Townshend. Sec Lieut C J Heath to be Lieutenant.

Grenadier Guards—Lieut P A Clive is seconded for service under the Colonial Office.

Coldstream Guards—Sec Lieut T G Matheson to be Adjutant on augmentation ; Lieut C M H Massey, from 3rd Bn the Suffolk Regt, to be Second Lieutenant vice T G Matheson.

Regimental District—Colonel M S J Sunderland, D S O, on completion of his period of service in command of the 91st (Princess Louise's Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders) Regimental District, is placed on half-pay.

Northumberland Fusiliers—Lieut F Bevan is seconded for service under the Colonial Office.

Royal Warwickshire Regt—Sergt-Major W Wood to be Quartermaster, with the Honorary rank of Lieutenant, vice Hon Lieut H Craig, retired.

Lincolnshire Regt—Capt A S Vanrenen is seconded for service under the Colonial Office.

Suffolk Regt—The promotion to the rank of Lieutenant of Sec Lieut F F Hall is antedated to Aug 2, 1897, vice R J Cuming, transferred to the Indian Staff Corps.

East Yorkshire Regt—Capt A J Richardson is seconded for service under the Colonial Office.

Royal Scots Fusiliers—Lieut V Lewis is seconded for service under the Colonial Office.

South Wales Borderers—Lieut E C Margesson is seconded for service under the Foreign Office.

King's Own Scottish Borderers.—The promotions to the rank of Lieutenant of the following Second Lieutenants are antedated as follows :—E S D'E Coke to July 29, 1897, vice J D Surling, transferred to the Indian Staff Corps, and C Leigh to Sept 28, 1897, vice G F C H Scott, deceased.

East Surrey Regt—Sec Lieut L W Johnson is seconded for service under the Colonial Office.

Sherwood Foresters (Derbyshire Regt)—Lieut R J F Taylor is seconded for service under the Colonial Office, the restoration to the Establishment of Lieut P G Rigby is antedated to Aug 6, 1897, vice G Knoles, transferred to the Indian Staff Corps.

Connaught Rangers—Sec Lieut H W Gough to be Lieutenant vice O D Blunt, seconded, Lieut F K Pomeroy from 3rd Bn Inniskilling Fusiliers to be Second Lieutenant, vice H W Gough.

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers—Lieut H W Higginson is seconded for service under the Colonial Office.

Rifle Brigade (the Prince Consort's Own)—Sec Lieut S E Holland to be Lieutenant vice H D Lewis, promoted.

Staff—Col A Fitz R Hart, C B from an Assistant-Adjutant-General to be a Major-General on the Staff to command an Infantry Brigade at Aldershot, with the temporary rank of Major-General whilst so employed. Vice Major-Gen R M Bengough, C B, whose period of service in that appointment has expired. Brevet-Col G E Harley, C B, from Lieutenant-Colonel half-pay, to be an Assistant Adjutant General and to have the substantive rank of Colonel in the Army, vice Col (temporary Major-General) A Fitz R Hart, C B. Capt J E Kigell, the Royal Warwickshire Regt, now an Instructor at the S M College, to be a Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General for Musketry Instruction, vice Major C W Allatt, whose period of service in that appointment has expired.

Army Medical Staff—Surg-Major A Perry retires from the service, receiving a gratuity.

Army Ordnance Department—Major A H W Brett, R A, to be an Inspector, vice Lt-Col R S Watson, appointed a Chief Inspector.

Army Pay Department—Chief Paymr and Hon Col W M Hayter retires on retired pay.

Army Veterinary Department—R C Moore, Gent, to be Veterinary Lieutenant, in succession to Vet-Major S M Wilson, retired.

Brevet Lt-Col Sir S M Lockhart, M V O, 1st Life Guards, to be Colonel.

Indian Staff Corps—Col J W A Michell is transferred to the Unemployed Supernumerary List.

Memorandum—Lt-Col A W Dury, half-pay, retires on retired pay

Reserve of Officers—Lieut C E Hewitt, late Captain 1st Sussex Volunteer Artillery (Eastern Division, Royal Artillery resigns his commission

THE NAVY.

APPOINTMENTS.

CAPTAINS.—H W S Gibson, to Katoomba, J H Rainier, to Thunderer (Dec 15).

LIEUTENANTS.—W C Chayter, to Wild fire, as Flag Lieutenant to Vice-Admiral Sir O F Hoth m (Dec 16), J F Farcy, to Dart (undated) ; F R Acklom, to Pembroke, R L H Armstrong, to Consquam at Fraserburgh (Jan 1).

SUB-LIEUTENANTS—S T Stephens (a, R N Ri, to Prince George (Dec 9), C T Gervers, to Thrush (Dec 8).

MIDSHIPMEN—T L Goldie, to Jupiter, G S Thornley, to Mars, W R C Morsom, to Majestic, G D Griffiths and E F Pitcairn, to Prince George, C S Forbes, to Victorious (Dec 16).

FLEET ENGINEER—W G Parsons, to Iron Duke (Dec 6.)

STAFF E GINEERS—J J Carey, to Northumberland, J A Hicks, to Edinburgh (Dec 8).

Chief Engineer—J Richardson, to Prometheus (Nov 1).

Paymaster—W M C B Whyte to be Secretary to Vice-Admiral C F Hotham, K C B, appointed Chief in Command Sheerness (Dec 10).

Assistant Paymasters—F G Motton and G S Woahan, to Wildfire, as Secretary to Clerks (Dec 10). Sec Lieutenants, R Vernon, of Seaman, to Duke of Wellington, W Davey, to Pembroke, for R N Barracks, C Radcliffe, to Lion (Dec 8), W J Bull, to Centurion (Nov 23).

Gunners—H Williams, F E C Hurst, W W Hutchings, J W Cottrell, H Hawkes, C J Hayward, W Forrest, J Wallace, J Mowday, and A Rivett (acting), to Excellent, W Cammack, to Skate (Dec 1), H Lodge, to Victory, additional, for Europe, W G Jones, to Rosebay.

Boatswains—T Watson, to Colliagwood, A Adams (a) to Australia.

Carpenter—E C Eldy, to Galatea.

Admiralty, No. 24 ! The following Sub Lieutenants on the Supplementary List have been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant on the Supplementary List of Her Majesty's Fleet : A W Gush, D Campbell, J B Hunt, and P de W Kitcat.

Dec 1—In accordance with the provisions of Her Majesty's Order in Council of Feb 22, 1870, Comm Li S Dawson has this day been placed on the Retired List, at his own request, with permission to use the rank of Captain, and forms first on the list of Retired Commanders.

Staff Surg T S H Williams has been promoted to the rank of Fleet-Surgeon in Her Majesty's Fleet, vice Paymr B C Scott, who has been promoted to the rank of Fleet-Paymaster in Her Majesty's Fleet.

Dec 2—In accordance with the provisions of Her Majesty's Order in Council of Feb 22, 1870, Comm E H Moore has been authorised to assume the rank of Retired Captain

Royal Naval Reserve—Acting Sub Lieut, M Pierson has been confirmed in the rank of Sub Lieutenant.

Dec 3—In accordance with the provisions of Her Majesty's Order in Council of Feb 22, 1870, Comm E H Stewart has this day been placed on the Retired List at his own request.

Royal Marine Light Infantry—Capt J Bernard (seconded) to be Major on the Establishment, vice Brute to half-pay.

Dec 4—In accordance with the provisions of Her Majesty's Order in Council of Feb 22, 1870, Capt J E Merryn has been placed on the retired List.

Dec 6—The following Gunners have been promoted to the rank of Chief Gunner in Her Majesty' fleet : J Hickey, C W Chipp, and B J Blower. The following Boatswains have been promoted to the rank of Chief Boatswain in Her Majesty's Fleet : H W Horn, J Vosper, and W Toner

Royal Naval Reserve. Sub Lieut J B Mackenzie has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant

Dec 7.—In accordance with the provisions of Her Majesty's Order in Council of Feb 22, 1870, Staff Comm J W Dixon has this day been placed on the retired list, with permission to assume the rank of Captain. The following Staff Engineers have been advanced to the rank of Fleet Engineer in Her Majesty's Fleet :—J J Stuart, J J Frost, J W Hole, and T Green. The following Chief Engineer has been advanced to the rank of Staff Engineer in Her Majesty's Fleet—A W Turner.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ORDERS.

(*Gazette of India*, December, 25.)

HOME DEPARTMENT.

The services of Mr F G Sly, of the Indian Civil Service, Under Secy to the Govt of India in the Dept of Revenue and Agriculture, are replaced at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, with effect from the 3rd Jan, 1898, or the subsequent date on which he may be relieved of his duties.

With reference to Home Dept Notification No. 489, dated the 22nd June, 1897, it is hereby notified that the Hon Sir A Mackenzie, K C S I, returned from leave and resumed charge of the office of Lieut-Governor of Bengal on the 21st inst.

The services of the undermentioned officers are replaced temporarily at the disposal of the Military Dept, with effect from the dates on which they respectively made over charge of their duties in the Central Provinces :—Surgn-Capt W H Gray, and A G Hendley, I M S, Bengal

The undermentioned officer is granted leave to proceed out of India on private affairs under the leave rules for the Staff Corps, the up called period to count from the date of being struck of duty ;—Capt H E Bolleau, I S C, Comdt and Dist Supt of Police, Port Blair, for six months, Pension service, 12th year commenced 23rd April, 1897.

The Revd A E Brown Constable, a chaplain on the Bengal Calcutta Ecclesiastical Estabt, is appointed to officiate as Chaplain of Mhow, Central India, with effect from the date on which he may assume charge of his duties

The Revd A Ferrier, Senior Chaplain of the Church of Scotland, is granted furlough out of India for two years, with effect from the 25th inst, or the subsequent date on which he may avail himself of it.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

The services of the undermentioned officers are replaced at the disposal of the Government of the Punjab, with effect from the date of relinquishing charge of their political duties with the Chitral Expeditionary Force :—Mr L W King, of the Indian Civil Service, a Depy Commissioner of the 2nd (offg 1st) grade, and Mr D Donald, Asst Dist Supt of Police, 1st class, 1st grade.

The privilege leave granted to Capt A McConaghey, I S C, a Political Assist of the 3rd, officiating 2nd class, in Notification No. 1662 G, dated the 16th Nov, 1897, is extended by ten days.

FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

Mr M N Bhattacharya is posted as Asst Comptroller, India Treasuries, with effect from the 8 Dec 1897.

Mr J P Bedford is promoted substantively to class III of the Enrolled List of the Financial Dept, with effect from the 22nd Nov, 1897.

The following promotions and reversions of officers of the Account Dept during the month of Nov 1897, are notified—

With effect from the 8th Nov, 1897, in consequence of the grant of privilege leave of Mr J C Mitra, Mr C W C Carson to officiate in class V of the Enrolled List.

With effect from the 8th Nov 1897, Mr O T Barrow to revert to class I, and Messrs A Kensington and F C Harrison to officiate in class II instead of in class I of Accountants General.

With effect from the 12th Nov 1897, Mr W H Dobbs to revert to class II, Mr H J Brereton to revert to class III, and Messrs J C Mitra and C W C Carson to officiate in class VI instead of in class V of the Enrolled List.

With effect from the 17th Nov, 1897, Mr H G Tomkins to officiate in class V of the Enrolled List. With effect from the 22nd Nov, 1897, Mr L Marshall to officiate in class II of the Enrolled List.

The following appointments in the account Dept are notified :—Mr E Lawrance to be Accountant Genl, N W Provinces and Oudh, with effect from the 7th Dec. 1897, and Mr R A Gamble to officiate as Accountant Genl Punjab, with effect from the 18th Dec, 1897

NOTICES.

In the... Rain Storm

the man got very wet. The wetting gave him a cold. The cold, neglected, developed to a cough. The cough sent him to a bed of sickness. A dose of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, taken at the start, would have nipped the cold in the bud and saved the sickness, suffering, and expense. The household remedy for colds, coughs, and all lung troubles, is

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VIENNA MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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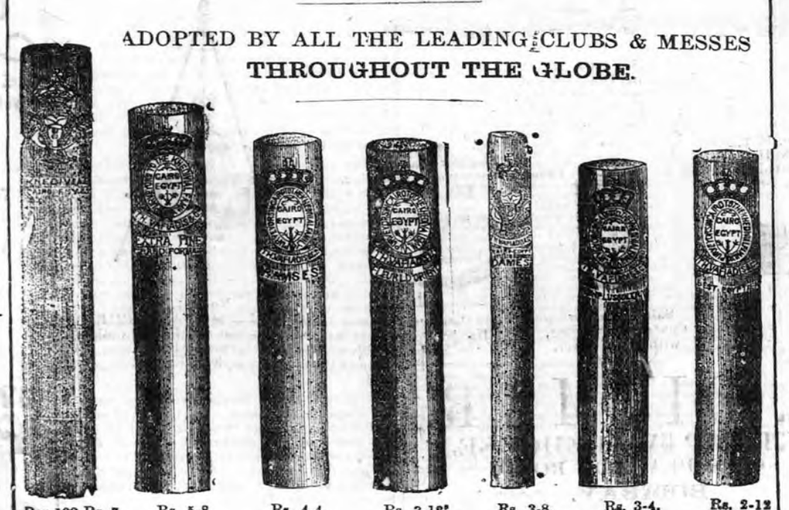

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RETAIL EVERYWHERE.

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Gold Medals, Paris, 1878, 1889.

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Of Highest Quality; and Having Greatest Durability, are Therefore CHEAPEST.

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is a perfect tonic; it braces up the system to resist Neuralgia, Colds and Influenza; it keeps the healthy well, and strengthens invalids. A perfect essence of Beef; its effect upon the system is lasting, not transitory like alcoholic stimulants. In the Kitchen it provides the essential features of good Cookery—appetising flavour, nourishment and digestibility.

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KOKO FOR THE HAIR

Is a tonic, cleansing, invigorating preparation, causes hair to grow LUXURIANTLY, keeps it soft and pliant, imparts to it the LUSTRE and FRESHNESS OF YOUTH, eradicates dandruff, PREVENTS HAIR FALLING, is THE MOST CLEANLY of hair preparations. PERFECTLY HARMLESS, is particularly cooling and refreshing, and SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR A HOT CLIMATE.

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MISS ELLEN TERRY, the great actress, writes:—"I have used 'KOKO' for years, and can assure my friends that it stops the hair from falling off, promotes its growth, keeps the head cool and free from dandruff, and is the most pleasant dressing imaginable."

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The Princesses BEATRICE, VICTORIA, and MAUD use "KOKO for the Hair" constantly, and there is not a Royal Residence in the Kingdom in which "KOKO" is not a favourite Toilet Requisite.

AUTHORITATIVE ANALYSIS.

"CHEMICAL LABORATORY, 54, Holborn Viaduct, London, January 18th, 1888. I hereby certify that I have submitted to a careful examination and chemical analysis, a sample purchased by myself from the stock of a well-known firm of wholesale druggists, of the preparation known as 'Koko for the Hair.' I have found nothing in this preparation which could be injurious either to the head or hair, and the results of the analysis lead me to pronounce 'Koko for the Hair' a pleasant dressing, which would undoubtedly be advantageous in many cases. I discovered in the preparation no ingredients of the nature of a colouring matter or dye.

"EDWY GODWIN CLAYTON, F.I.C., F.C.S., "Member of the Society of Public Analysts, &c."

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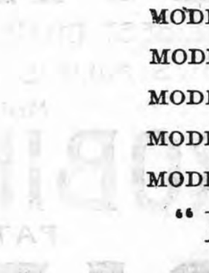

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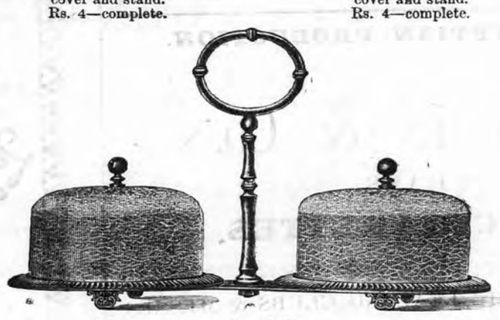

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